



Uniting Church in Australia  
**South Perth Uniting Church**

## **History of South Perth Uniting Church to 2005**

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Isabel Giles



**OUR CHURCH**

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~ PREFACE ~

In an attempt to gather together some of the facts and events that have brought us to the present time, every care has been taken in research but I apologise for any omissions and errors which may occur.

Also, it would be impossible to name all those who have played a part in the life of the Church. Over the years there have been so many who have all contributed in a variety of ways.

Although this story is predominantly about this Church, of necessity reference will be made to the other Uniting Churches in this area as they have always worked together as one Circuit or Parish and thus activities and finances have intertwined, as has the Worship. However each Church would also have its own story to tell.

*Isabel Giles*  
1999/2000

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## Early Colony in Perth and First Settlers in South Perth

The history of Methodism in Western Australia, and subsequently of this Church, commences back in the 1830s as some of the earliest settlers were Wesleyans.

William Kernot Shenton was a Wesleyan who arrived in WA on the *Lotus* in October 1829. This was only two years after Captain James Stirling had arrived en route to England.

Captain Stirling sailed up the Swan River as far as Perth Waters, which led to the colonisation of Western Australia and the formal raising of the Union Jack on 2 May, 1829 by Captain James Fremantle. Captain Stirling returned with his wife, Ellen, on board the *Parmelia* to become Governor of the new settlement, which was officially proclaimed on 2 June 1829.

William Shenton was allocated land at Pt Belches in 1833 for the building of his flour mill.



Another early Wesleyan was William Shenton's cousin George, who arrived in 1833. He married Ann Catherine Cousins in 1837 and they had 13 children. George was a pharmacist by profession and also a trustee of Perth Wesley Church, chairman of a building company and many other successful business ventures.

Joseph and John Wall Hardey arrived on the *Tranby* in 1830 and set up a farming enterprise on Peninsula Farm at Maylands. They were very strict in maintaining the principles and doctrines of John Wesley.

Other prominent Wesleyan settlers were George Lazenby, Paul Lockyer, Henry Trigg and James Inkpen, who were instrumental in the building of and donations towards Perth Wesley Church, and are mentioned as donors towards South Perth's first Chapel (see below).

Although William Shenton had been allocated land in 1833, it was 1837 before the Government decided to open up the South Perth area and then only in pockets. The early settlers of the area were market gardeners, dairymen and orchardists. Some Wesleyans among them were Messrs Douglas, Pennington and Strickland, whose names are still well known in this area.



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## **The First Church Services in the Area**

**G**radually, as more people settled in the area, there grew the feeling of the need for a Chapel for regular worship. Until this time, services had been held in people's homes and a local hall in Mends Street, built by Mr Pennington and used by all denominations.

Later, there was a hall on the corner of Preston and Coode Streets. Two of the homes in which services were held were those of Mrs Edgecumbe in Eric Street and her daughter Mrs Cook.

A Mrs Narroway led Girls' Comrades and trained a choir in the early years. Sunday School was also held at this home and, as it contained quite a library, the children did a lot of reading and brought their bathers for a swim at Como Beach after Sunday School!

Reverend Joseph Green was one of the early Ministers to help out by taking services for this infant congregation, as did lay preachers Fred Glasken and Thomas Farmer.

As there was a lack of roads and bridges, the river was the main form of transport and preachers were collected by boat from Perth and rowed across and back, mainly by some of the Douglas boys, but also by the Pusey and Wood boys.

## **Building the First Chapel in South Perth**

**I**n March 1860, a letter was written to Perth Wesley Trustees by Reverend Samuel Hardey of Mission House, Perth Settlement. The original of his letter was found in the Methodist Conference Records Room in London and transcribed by Reverend W McNair.

The text is copied hereunder:

*“The inhabitants of this vicinity, having never had Divine Services regularly conducted amongst them, are now desirous of erecting a small Chapel, which may also serve for a day and Sunday School. There are 75 residents in the locality, 46 of whom are children. But they, being merely of the working class, are under the necessity of soliciting aid from the Christian Public for the accomplishment of this project.*

*It is proposed to put up a building 26 ft long by 16 ft wide of good substantial materials and work which will involve the outlay of 60 Pounds and when finished will accommodate 40 persons. The work to be commenced when half this sum has been raised. The Government has very kindly granted a plot in a very central position for this object.”*

*(Signed) Rev. Samuel Hardey  
Chairman.*

Below is a list of the original Donors:

His Excel. Gov. Kennedy	5 Pounds	W. Grey	2 pounds 10/-
G. Shenton	5 Pounds	J. Fenwick	5/-
F. F. Armstrong	10/-	Miss Heale	5/-
F. Waldeck	2 Guineas	Mr Walker	20/-
Helm	1 Pound	C. Duffield	5/-
Helmich	1 Pound	W. Inkpen	10/-
H. H. Trigg	1 Pound	T. Britnell	5/-
Joseph Hardey	5 Pounds	Mr Read	5/-
R.R. Jewell	1 Pound	Mr Strickland	5/-
G. Johnson	1 Pound	Mr Maycock	10/-
J. Stokes	1 Pound	Mr Dalton	50/-
Sarah Hardey	1 Pound	Mr Horrocks	1 Pound
W. Knight	1 Pound	Mr J. York	1 Pound
J. Hosier	1 Pound	Mr E. Galloway	2/-
J. W. Hardey	4 Pounds	Mr Monger	5/-
J. Laurence	1 Pound	G. Johnson	1 Pound
		E. A. P.	1 Pound

There are also records of the costs allowed for the building, and these are set out as follows:

Contractor's cost	£60/-/-
Extras:	
Floor Laying, Furniture, Fence, Plastering of outside of Chapel	£6/12/3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£66/12/3</b>

Among the donors are some well known names including:

- George Shenton, merchant, pharmacist and businessman and cousin of mill builder W. K. Shenton;
- Mr Strickland, landowner and builder of the Windsor Hotel;
- F. F. Armstrong who, with his wife, were tireless workers concerned for the aboriginal people and their health and education;
- J. W. & Sarah Hardey from Tranby Peninsula Farm; and
- R. R. Jewel, a noted Perth architect responsible for such buildings as Perth Town Hall, the Barracks, Cloisters, Treasury Building, St. George's Deanery and the first Wesley and Trinity Churches.

So it was that finally, in 1860, after Rev. Hardey had circularised the members of Perth Wesley Church and sufficient funds were received, a start was made on the first Wesleyan Chapel in South Perth.

The land granted by the Government was at the corner of Coode Street and Suburban Road (now Mill Point Road). The building was of 'substantial materials', had a shingle roof, brick floor and Gothic windows.

The building was officially opened by Reverend Wright, the President of Conference at the time. One evening a fundraising Tea Meeting was held in the building with 80 people attending,



who had each been charged 2/6. The building was also used as the first South Perth School, with 24 pupils, and it continued as a school for 17 years.

Mr and Mrs Henry Spencer lived in a cottage in Mends Street and, although then retired, Mr Spencer was noted as the first 'trained' teacher in Western Australia. There are conflicting records as to who was the first teacher at this Chapel School. Mr & Mrs Spencer had a daughter, Emily, and some records state she was the first teacher but unfortunately died from measles shortly afterwards. Other records state she died prior to teaching at this school. However, all agree that Mrs Eliza Wood taught at the school and continued to teach there for the duration of the Chapel as a school.

### **A Glimpse of the Early South Perth Community**

**I**n the 1860s and 70s South Perth was a tiny agricultural community sending fruit, vegetables and dairy products to Perth via the wooden Causeway built in the 1840s.



In Reverend Hardey's letter regarding the funds for the first Chapel, he stated there were 75 residents, of whom 46 were children. This would have been South Perth's earliest census and showed how little the area had grown in the 31 years since colonisation. Of the 46 children in the area, 35 of them belonged to just three pioneering families:

- Mr Douglas, dairyman and orchardist, and his wife had 10 children;

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- Mr Pusey, dairyman and market gardener, and his wife had 12 children; and
  - Mr Tondut, gardener and mainly fisherman, and his wife had 13 children.

Mr Thomas Douglas also had a strong association with the South Perth Baptist Church. He was very good to the children of the Sunday School and supplied fresh watermelons for their picnics. As his home was near the waterfront in River Street (now Douglas Avenue), he often had picnics on his property and also took the children on his boat, which had once been a lifeboat on an ocean-going vessel. Later he continued to take the children for picnics, but on a two-horsedrawn lorry, and went further afield to Applecross and Point Walter. Obviously the children of this early settlement had many happy, carefree times together.

On an 1864/65 Preaching Plan, Messrs Hardey, Shenton, Helmich, Farmer, Jewell, Evans, Armstrong, Mason and Halliday are shown as Preachers for the South Perth Chapel. This original Chapel and school building was used as a Chapel for four years, a school for 17 years and as a hall for 60 years.

It was the hall used for the first elections in 1892 when South Perth formed its own Roads Board. It was referred to as 'The Old School House'. Just to complete the life of this building, in 1904 it became a privately-owned power station. Ten years later the Municipal Council purchased the power plant for £5,400, then purchased the land and building from the Methodist Church Trustees for £400. Until 1950 it supplied power throughout the South Perth area from that site.

On Wesley College's Hanton Quadrangle there is a wooden belltower on a solid block of concrete sunk into the ground, with a plaque recording that it was the site of the first electricity

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generating plant in South Perth. It is understood that the bell in this belltower was from the ship *Tranby*.

Many years later the power station site was purchased by Wesley College for a Preparatory School and so the site of the first Wesley Chapel, built in 1860, was again developed under the name of 'Wesley'.

It was in 1922 that a Mr Alexander Crawford donated four blocks of land on the corner of Coode Street and Mill Point Road and, with a donation and a bequest from Miss Sarah Hardey, Wesley College was built and opened in 1923, the foundation stone having been laid on 11 November 1922 by Premier James Mitchell.

As a matter of interest, after the closure of the Wesley Chapel and school and the opening of Forrest Street State School in 1898, private education in South Perth ceased until 1901 when, in the Mends Street Hall (which had become the Mechanics Institute), a Miss Burnet opened a school. Links from that school can be traced all the way to the present Penrhos College run by the Uniting Church of Australia. St Ann's School began operation in the Mends Street Hall as an infant school for children to 8 years of age. As numbers grew, it moved to new premises in Angelo Street (at the Labouchere Road end) until, in 1951, it was sold and Penrhos College founded in Como.

## Moving Towards a New Church Building

With the closure of the Chapel and the building of Wesley College, for a short time the Reverend Green held Church Services in one of the College classrooms.

When the College took over the land on which the original Chapel had been built, they paid one hundred and fifty pounds towards the purchase of land in Angelo Street for a Methodist Church to meet the needs of the Congregation.

In 1924, Methodist Church Trustees paid six hundred pounds for land in Angelo Street. Five hundred pounds were borrowed and the balance raised by members from concerts, fetes etc. and the Church was built at a cost of one thousand pounds.

Below is a copy of the text of the Certificate of Title under the Lands Act 1893:

*“Father Edward Deacon, Bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand owned Lots 49, 50, 60 and 61 Swan Location 308.*

*Under provisions of “Trustees of Methodist Church Deed of W.A. 1912”*

*Transfer 8664/1924 to:*

<i>Alexander Crawford</i>	<i>Gentleman</i>	<i>South Perth</i>
<i>Hopish Klem</i>	<i>Surveyor</i>	<i>Mt Lawley</i>
<i>Arthur Johnston Barclay</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>Leederville</i>
<i>Horace Elgar Mofflin</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Darlington</i>
<i>John B Hawkins</i>	<i>Builder</i>	<i>Perth</i>
<i>James Walton</i>	<i>Gentleman</i>	<i>Claremont</i>
<i>A Douglas</i>	<i>Gentleman</i>	<i>South Perth</i>

*Registered 20.10.1924”*

The Foundation Stones read:

**THIS STONE WAS LAID BY  
MR A. DOUGLAS  
On  
SEPTEMBER 5th, 1925**

**E. ALLWOOD  
Contractor**

**THIS STONE WAS LAID BY  
MR J. P. WALTON  
On  
SEPTEMBER 5th, 1925**

**Jas HINE FRIBA  
Architect**

And so the Angelo Street Methodist Church was built.



For the opening there was no seating, so chairs were brought over from Wesley College. At a later stage funds were raised for the purchase of 100 chairs at 13/6 (\$1.35) each. The communion rail had been an organ rail in Perth Wesley Church and the organ was donated by West Perth Wesley Church.

### **Congregational Life at that Time**

**W**ith the building of this Church, the boys from Wesley College used to march across from the College to join the Congregation for their regular Chapel Services.

Churches seem to be always raising funds, and often it is for new buildings and furnishings. In August 1930, the Comrades held a concert for funds for a church piano. In 1932 South Perth Church held a concert with various artists performing and it is noted that among the performers was Mrs Narroway.

Church Leaders Meetings were held regularly in the 1930s, 40s and 50s when reports were received from each Department of the Church and various other Church matters discussed.



From the minutes of the meetings of the 1930s the numbers of children on the Sunday School Rolls were shown as:

Sunday School	74	Average attendance	40
Kindergarten	60	" "	30
Young Peoples Christian Endeavour		" "	18
Junior Christian Endeavourers		" "	18
Cradle Roll		" "	20

Reports were also regularly received from Ladies Guilds and the Men’s Society, although the latter’s Constitution and Inauguration Document is not dated.

In an endeavour to assist with friendship among the Congregation, some meetings were held in members’ homes.

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It was a busy social year within the Church in 1939, with the Congregation holding a church picnic, a river trip and a Harvest Festival Service. Also in that year, there were discussions on the South Perth and Como Churches becoming a separate Circuit from Perth Central Mission, but this was rejected by the governing body of the Churches – the Methodist Church Synod. This matter was again brought to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting from a Church Leaders Meeting in 1945, as it was felt that South Perth and Como, with 92 members on their Rolls, could become self-supporting.

In 1945 the task of finding a suitable house for a manse was deemed almost hopeless and it was stated that if Central Mission could not provide a house, South Perth and Como would need to stay with the Mission for another year. It was further suggested that the Mission should obtain a block of land on Canning Highway for the future. The next year, 1946, saw the selection of a suitable block for a Church site and an application was lodged for a workers' home. It is wondered how, in 1945, it was felt these two Churches could be self-supporting, for their 1941 Statement of Trust Funds shows receipts of sixty-two pounds, but a bank balance of six shillings and five pence, with nothing paid off Church debt. As this debt stood at over three hundred pounds, Secretary Mr Frank W. Narroway would have been a worried man!

In 1949 the Church Trust was receiving an average of 17/6 weekly, stated to be "enough for running costs but not for future development". This amount was from the Envelope System of Giving, whereby church members pledged a weekly amount, thereby giving Church Trustees an indication of income for budgeting purposes.

At Angelo Street, the Congregation increased in the early 1940s and it was realised that some expansion work needed to

be carried out in the form of a hall to meet the needs of the young people of the church. At a Leaders' Meeting in 1941 they requested the cooperation of the Trust for the erection of a hall.

A hall was built behind the church and opened on 15 March, 1947. The Service was conducted by Dr J. L. Rossiter MA, and the building was opened by Dr W. J. Burton, President-General of Methodist Conference. On this occasion, two well-known Methodist Hymns were sung: *'To God be the Glory'* and *'We Love the Place, O God'*. The solo *'Bless This House'* was sung by Mrs Frank Narrowway, no doubt a relative of the Mrs Narrowway of early Wesleyan days.

### **Establishing the Kensington and Como Congregations**

The 1940s and 50s were also the years in which it was felt there should be new churches built at Kensington and near Canning Bridge.

The Kensington Congregation was established in 1949, and in 1951 the land which they owned in Sixth Avenue was sold for three hundred pounds to obtain two blocks on the corner of Collins and Oxford Streets. On this land, their church was built and it opened on 6 August 1955. This was the first of a three-

stage project to meet the needs of the new housing developments established in the area in 1948.



At Como, the work had begun when South Perth Methodists purchased the old Pennington Hall on the corner of Labouchere Road and Eric Street from



the Baptist Congregation and transported it to Robert Street in 1948. This building was used until approximately 1956.

It was in June 1951 that the Reverend George A. Jenkins, as Superintendent Minister of South Perth Methodist Circuit, applied to the State Housing Commission on behalf of the Circuit for land in Collier for the establishment of Church work. They received approval for Lots 580 and 581 in Todd Avenue, South Perth at cost of one hundred and eighty-five pounds each. This approval was received in March 1952. In October 1953, there was an Agreement between the Board of Management of Conference Church Sites and Building Funds and Collier Trust for a loan of seven hundred pounds.



However in May 1954, this site being considered unsuitable, was sold for nine hundred pounds and the funds used to purchase land in McDonald Street, adjacent to land already owned.

The Congregation built their church at a cost of nineteen thousand pounds, and the Church was opened on 18 August, 1956.

In October 1953, the South Perth Circuit wrote to Synod advising them of the activity in the area, and the combining of Como and Collier Congregations. Although Como has written its own story, these matters seem relevant to the South Perth story, as it was all within the one Circuit.

By 1960, there were four Methodist Churches within the Circuit between the Causeway and Canning Bridge, namely South

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Perth, Como, Kensington and Manning. Manning Congregation was on the move, having formulated plans in May 1958 for their thirty-five thousand pound complex.

## **A Growing Presence in the Area**

**D**espite the ups and downs of finances in the late 1940s and 1950s, these were years in which there was great activity in the whole district, with new housing areas being developed and an influx of young families, creating the need for the churches to serve these families.

Some churches held both morning and evening services and there were many activities and clubs within the Circuit to meet these needs. There were:

- Christian Endeavour Groups;
- Ladies Social Clubs;
- Ladies Guilds;
- a Girls Club being run by Miss Joan Collins;
- a Boys Club;
- Sunday Schools, with the one at Kensington being run by I. Lockhart;
- Young Women's Missionary Movement;
- a Tennis Club, which played in Pennants competitions;
- a Badminton group;
- Men's Fellowship;
- Boys Life Brigades;
- a Benevolent Fund; and
- Choir groups.

With all this activity, it is no wonder that the South Perth Circuit Churches decided that it was time to urgently run some fundraising campaigns. They had recently been involved in 'Crusade for Christ' and 'Mission to the Nation' in 1950, which were organised by Synod and statewide ventures.

## Raising Funds for the Church

**F**AITH IN ACTION was the South Perth Circuit's first fundraising campaign that involved all the churches in the Circuit. The Minister at the time was Reverend S. H. Sagggers and the Circuit Assistant was Reverend W. J. Molloy. The Canvas Committee Chairman was the Honourable David Brand and Hostess Committee Chairman was Mrs Kay Lockhart.



Reverend Sagggers



Mrs Lockhart

In the booklet prepared for this campaign, there was the following Dedication:

*“Dedicated to the late Arthur Douglas and the band of settlers whose spiritual desires gave birth to the Methodist Church Community in the South Perth bush late last century.*

*To the men and women who have kept this flame very much alive over more than half a century.*

*To the crusading spirit which has enabled the Church to match the breathtaking post-war developments of housing in this district.*

*To the men and women of today who are now preparing to put Faith once more into Action in the Church's greatest fundraising drive so that the big advances of recent times may be consolidated in the much needed new buildings.*

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*To the children to whom this heritage will pass and to the future generations for whom these foundations are being firmly laid."*

This three-year giving plan was for 1955–58 and was organised under the Wells Stewardship Campaign. A massive £24,267 was pledged by church members.

Besides the normal running costs of the Circuit, these funds were used in:

- providing an assistant for the Circuit Minister;
- purchase of land at Manning;
- payment of debts for Como and Kensington;
- loan repayments;
- manse renovations; and
- the building fund for South Perth.

At the time, the assets were valued at £11,464 and it had been wondered if the Congregation could meet their debt of £2,000 and make progress. Following the campaign, they obtained a 40% increase in Church membership. The number of children on Sunday School Rolls was approaching 900 and there were 40 separate activities arranged to cater for people of all ages, some of which have already been mentioned. At that time 950 school children were receiving religious instruction in the schools each week. Obviously it was a very satisfying campaign.



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Despite the success of the first campaign, the Circuit felt the need to meet the challenge of providing “the material and spiritual destiny of the community in which we live”, and to complete the task commenced by the first campaign. A second campaign was held called COMBINED FUNDS PROGRAMME 1958-60 – TO DO OUR MASTER’S WILL.

The Dedication for this campaign read:

*“To the pioneers of our Faith in South Perth – those whom we honoured in our previous Fund-Raising Campaign, and whom we must never forget.*

*To those whose endeavours have confirmed our Faith and strengthened theirs...*

*To the Trustees and Officers in our various centres who are ably planning for the foreseeable future so that our Church facilities may be adequate for the rapidly growing Ministry of the Church.*

*To the worshippers and those whom we would serve in time of need...*

*To our Sunday School scholars and the school children who receive Religious Education from our Ministers week by week.*

*And to the unknown future whose challenge we must be ready to face.”*

In the brochure produced for the launch, was the following Statement:

*“THIS IS THE BACKGROUND.*

*South Perth Circuit is a long-standing Methodist enterprise whose beginnings go back to the turn of the Century.*

*But until 1955 it had only two centres of Worship. One was the existing 33-year-old Church, and a timber-framed hall on the corner of Angelo and Sandgate Streets. The other was a wooden one-time dance hall which Methodist*

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folk carted by jinker to establish a cause in Eric Street, Como in 1920.

South Perth was reasonably wealthy at that time. But Como's average Sunday School of 200 spilled out into the open air every Sunday for classes. And there was much new work among the children of fresh housing settlements in Kensington, Collier and Manning Park, all carried on in state school classrooms and verandahs, thanks to the tolerance of the Education Department.

Modern history was created in the Circuit when we launched our first big fundraising drive in 1955. In the same year, the double-storey church and hall was opened in the heart of Kensington and within 12 months the enrolments had doubled in almost every phase of activity. In 1956 a new Church and hall of imaginative design was opened in McDonald Street, Como, and the work at both Como and Collier was merged in these buildings. The first Sunday School Anniversary held in them drew a total attendance at three Services of 617 adults and 439 children.

About the same time the Circuit bought three adjoining building blocks at Manning. These are still empty as you will see in the picture at the top of the next page. The Sunday School there has moved its work to a public hall after seven years in state school and church services have increased from one a month to once a week over the past 18 months.

The main new building needs now are at:

MANNING where the first stage of a very long-range master plan is to be built. This will house classrooms and other facilities for youth work and its largest room will be used for church services. Some time in the future a hall will be added and, finally, a church. By planning well ahead like this, it is hoped that this cause will be well able to move with the times.

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*SOUTH PERTH, where a new church is to be the first stage of another long-range master plan in which the old church will become a hall for youth work and other activities. Serious overcrowding is making this work urgent.*

*KENSINGTON, where a good-sized hall is badly needed. COMO, whose excellent facilities are already becoming crowded."*

By now the Circuit assets were at least £37,000 and debts were over £11,000. They aimed to raise £25,000 again in the two years from 1958 to 1960 to:

- pay off debts at Como and Kensington;
- provide deposits on new buildings such as the first stages at Manning, the Kensington hall and the South Perth plans;
- meet requirements for youth work; and
- meet the stipends for the recent addition of a second Minister as well as an assistant.

At the Loyalty Dinner, the Minister, Reverend S. H. Saggars, stated:

*"Five years ago when I came, I was the only Methodist Minister in South Perth, now there are two of us and a Missioner."*

The Programme Committee Chairman was Mr A. E. Nicholas and the Hostess Committee Chairman was again Mrs Kaye Lockhart. Again this Campaign was successful with increased income as well as over 750 families attending the churches and it was stated that, since 1955, the total Circuit income was £65,157. There had been £52,000 spent on buildings – Como Church: £17,000; Como Manse: £4,000; Kensington Church: £8,000; Manning Church: £9,000; and South Perth Church: £14,000.

However, there was still just over £20,000 owing on these properties and so it was that, in 1963, the Circuit had an "ONWARD IN FAITH" Programme:

- for the continuation of the work commenced with young people;
- in an endeavour to clear the debts; and
- for completion of the building programme.



*Reverend John Hough*

The Ministers of the day were Reverend John Hough at Kensington and South Perth, and Reverend Arthur Meyer at Como and Manning.



*Reverend Arthur Meyer*

The General Chairman was Dr Alan J. M. Nelson, and the Hostess Chairman was Mrs Doris Clark. As well as the above financial hopes, there was the aim of having 1,000 families within the Circuit by 1966.

About the same time as the churches were needing to expand, there was some discontent among the members with the financial system decided upon by the Methodist Conference. All offerings were banked in the Circuit Account and local Property and Finance Committees were specially provided for. The system was observed for three years but was considered to have many shortcomings and local churches were losing the incentive to meet their obligations. In May 1957, the Conference amended their Law to allow for a Budgeting Scheme for Circuit or Church Finance. This was finally embodied in the 1965 Conference Law.



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South Perth Circuit changed to the new system and a greater enthusiasm emerged. South Perth continued with this System even after Church Union in 1977. However, there must have been another change proposed later for, in May 1983, eight ex-Treasurers of Methodist and Uniting Churches felt it necessary to be signatories to a letter to Conference stating:

*“...the present financial system is simplest and most effective. Any reversion to a centralised system would result in reduced offerings and further burden on Parish Treasurers.”*

The matter of Church properties was always in discussions and, when it was realised that the South Perth manse was in need of considerable repair work or replacement, it was decided that a new manse would be the best course of action. The existing manse at 133 Angelo Street was valued at £3,700, but it would cost £7,000 to replace it on the same site. Como manse in Todd Avenue was also to be improved, so a committee was formed to achieve these ends. The Todd Avenue property was improved ready for sale and the McDonald Street manse purchased. The Manning Congregation were encouraged to proceed with their plans.

### **A New Church in Sandgate Street**

**A**t this time, South Perth Church membership was 99, Como was 116, Kensington was 57 and Manning was 50. *The West Australian* newspaper of 11 May 1960 carried an article giving details of a new church planned for South Perth.

*“At a cost of fifteen thousand pounds, the church was the first stage of a five-stage centre in Sandgate Street to replace the 35-year-old church. The new church would seat 200 including a choir of 20. A feature is to be a 55 ft belltower. Also to include classrooms, meeting rooms,*

*kitchen to serve 175; a walkway to the manse via a sanctuary garden; provision for parking on a grassed area near Hampden Street and on land nearer Angelo Street."*



Obviously some modifications were made to these original ideas. The tennis courts near Angelo Street, although unused, were still there in the 1980s and no belltower or lawn parking near Hampden Street eventuated!

The programme was commenced and the foundation stone laid stating:

*"This Stone was laid to the Glory of God  
17th June, 1962 by Mr. W. E. Page."*

The new Church was dedicated at a Service held on 9 September 1962 and the Minister was Reverend John Hough, assisted by President of Conference, Reverend S. A. Jenkins. Furnishings from the old Angelo Street Church, such as the organ, which



had been purchased from Katanning, was sold to Manning and the pews sold to Armadale Church of England and South Perth Presbyterian Church. After much upgrading and repair, the old church was ready to be used as a hall.

In December 1966, after the building of the manse, the total debt was \$11,797 (£5,898/10/-: Australia had changed to decimal currency on 14 February 1966).

## Activities in the New Church in the 1970s

When the debt was reduced by \$7,546, an amount of \$2,163 was spent in 1969/70 “in providing facilities so the original hall could be used as a Child Minding Centre”. It was later stated that “rents have been contributing substantially to the Church running expenses.”

The Child Minding Centre was rented out and run as a private business. This ‘original’ hall was a weatherboard and asbestos structure built behind the Angelo Street Church.

By July 1973, membership at South Perth was 126; Como was 132; Kensington was 67; and Manning was 53. At that time it was stated in a Financial Report presented to members that the overdraft was \$1,951, there were interest-free loans from members of \$1,500, and a loan to Kensington of \$6,451. It was felt the finances were manageable and the buildings were all in good condition. In this situation, the 1970s seem to have been years of consolidation.

Within the Circuit there were activities for all age groups with:

- Sunday Schools;
- Junior and Intermediate Christian Endeavour Groups;
- Girls and Boys Brigades;
- Women’s Missionary groups;
- Young Married and Betweeners groups;
- Bible Study Groups;
- Men’s Fellowship;
- Annual Ladies Camp;
- Church picnics;
- Ladies Guilds;
- Ladies’ Social Club;
- mid-week Friendship groups; and
- Circuit Rallies.

Church attendance was stable and Sunday Schools held Anniversaries. It can be seen that as well as issues of good stewardship of property and finances, and concerns about creating and clearing debts, the spiritual and social needs and activities for all ages were also being catered for. The Circuit and the church members would have been kept very busy with all the above groups.

Following this Church history are brief histories of some of the above groups. Some of them no longer exist today as the make-up of the Congregations and their needs have altered over time.

In 1975 all the Congregations took part in a Mission in July, with the guest speaker being Reverend Dr Roy Sublette from



*Dr Roy Sublette*

Alabama in America. During this Mission there were morning studies, prayer vigils, choir, gospel and rhythm groups and soloists; bible studies and youth rallies. There were 20 gatherings in just 6 days!

In 1976 the Parish (the Circuit had become a Parish) held a Community Concert in Wesley College Auditorium with guest artists the Living Sounds Gospel Group, Steve Brett, and a Young People's Choir.

## **Union: The Formation of South Perth Uniting Church**

**A**lthough the idea of Union between Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational denominations had been thought about and discussed for many years, it was in the 70s that it really gained momentum and, in 1974/75, the decision was taken by the National Conferences of the three denominations to endeavour to unite.

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The three South Perth denominations made the decision to become a Uniting Parish, which was formalised with an Inauguration Service on Sunday, 5 January, 1975 and became known as SOUTH PERTH UNITING CHURCH. This Service was conducted by Reverend David Oxley who was Assistant Director of the Department of Home Missions.

The first meeting of the United Parish Council was held on 18 February 1975. The Uniting Church in Australia was formally inaugurated on 22 June 1977 with a big celebration in the Perth Entertainment Centre.

As was to be expected, there were a few areas of Australia where the worshippers strongly preferred to continue separately, and did so. However, the majority had been able to come to terms with the wisdom of the Union and the South Perth/Como area did so. Naturally, this was not without a lot of heartache. This was very evident and understandable when a decision needed to be made regarding Church properties and which should be sold and which retained. Initially after Union, the Congregations continued to meet in their own Churches.

The Broome Street Presbyterians and Sandgate Street Methodist Congregations had accepted Union and each other, but when it came to property, each felt 'their' Church was their personal place of worship and they had strong ties to it.

Over the course of a couple of years, services were held alternately in both Churches and many meetings convened to discuss the pros and cons of each site. Inevitably a decision had to be made and in 1983 it was decided to sell the Broome Street property and all worship at Sandgate Street. There were mixed feelings for quite some time of loss, sadness and disappointment but the Congregation gradually and happily came to worship and work together as one Congregation.

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The new Uniting Church in this area became a reality with the centres at Sandgate Street South Perth, McDonald Street Como and Collins Street Kensington working together as a Parish. Manning had become an entity on its own, but there was always cooperation among the four Churches, as in the past.

With Union came the publication of a new Australian Hymn Book and with the aid of donations from groups like the Ladies Social Club, South Perth Church purchased sufficient hymn books for their needs and then had to gradually become familiar with the new hymns. This was aided by the Choir, under the leadership of Mrs Helene Schroeder, learning some of the new hymns and teaching them to the Congregation during the Church Services. Here again was a feeling of loss as the Congregation was attached to singing the 'old faithful' hymns known so well over many years, rather than trying to become familiar with new ones. It was a gradual process.

1987 saw the 10th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia and a special Service was held in the Penrhos College Chapel on 10 June 1987. Prior to the commencement of the service there was a Community Hymn Singing Session with some wonderful stirring hymns such as *Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, *Lift High the Cross, I was Overjoyed*, *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* and *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*.

The preacher for this 'Worship Celebration' was Justice Sir Ronald Wilson, who was inaugural Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Western Australia. The service was conducted by Reverend Owen Roberts, Chairman of the Presbytery of Perth; Miss Beryl Grant, Moderator, Synod of Western Australia; Mr Michael Berry, Chairman of St Aidan's Congregation, Claremont Parish; Reverend James Cain, Minister, Perth Wesley Parish; and Dr Ann Zubrich, Chairman of Nedlands Parish. Penrhos College Choir sang *For the Beauty of the Earth* and Presbyterian Ladies College students gave the Bible Reading.

In Western Australia's 150th year, the area took part in 'WAY OF LIFE' Celebrations for WAY '79, which was a statewide combined churches event with a service held in the Perth Entertainment Centre.

### **The Church in the 1980s – Fun, Faith and Innovation!**

By the 1980s the South Perth population seemed to have stabilised and so, too, Church attendance, which was about 462 for the Uniting Churches in the Parish. The Church identified the particular focus of the area as meeting the needs of single parents, flat dwellers and the aged. The Parish now had an Assistant Minister instead of two full-time ordained Ministers and, with five Services in the Parish each Sunday, help was provided by Chaplains and Ministers in Association. To meet one of the concerns of the aged – loneliness – within the Parish, a Church Activities Centre (CAC) was formed. This group was formed in September 1979 at a meeting at the home of Reverend Don and Judy Pederick.



*Reverend Don Pederick*

It was decided to bring lonely senior citizens by bus from their homes, nursing homes and retirement villages to the church hall, where they would be given friendship, morning tea, entertainment, an activity or gentle exercise and sometimes a light luncheon and then taken to their homes again. This was a big undertaking by willing volunteers. There was a \$2 charge and, with the holding of mini fetes and lamington drives, the group was financially independent.

CAC was ably organised by Mrs Lenore Bremner for many years in the Broome Street Church Hall and, after its sale in 1988,

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CAC was transferred to McDonald Street Hall, Como. Although the former CAC has now ceased, there is still a Friendship Day held regularly at McDonald Street Church which is thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend.

In the 1980s the Church Assistant resident at McDonald Street was Mr Stan Stewart who, with his wife Pauline, were Christian Educators. During their time in the Parish they initiated several innovative programmes which involved the whole Parish and almost every parishioner at some time or another and in some way or another. Their enthusiasm was boundless and it would seem that all ventures were successful.

There was a 'Share and Tell' programme when some members shared their particular skills, interest or craft to small groups who had made a choice from the list available. As well as getting to know each other better, members also gained a little extra knowledge.

The Stewarts organised that the Parish be one of the various churches to have a church service televised on the ABC. This Service was held on 6 May, 1984. There were technical logistics to be worked out for this, as well as rehearsals for combined congregational hymn singing, bible readers and, of course, an augmented Choir. It proved to be very successful.

The Service was led by Mr Stan Stewart, the organist was Mrs Betty Butterworth and choir conductor was Mrs Helene Schroeder. There was also a children's choir. The bible readers were Miss Jean Holmes and Mr Charles Forward.

The Stewarts' love of working with children was evidenced by their production of a cassette tape of songs and verse performed by 40 children of the Parish. This caught the attention of TV Channel 9 producers who wished to use it in their Christian Television segment. It was called *Your Heart Has Eyes* and



Mrs Stewart used children of ages from 3 to 17 years. It was a delightful presentation. Mrs Stewart said she “wished to awaken the feelings of children and adults through song and words”.

For the Easter of March 1985 the Stewarts produced an Easter Festival called ‘*LOVE IN ACTION*’ which was held at the Broome Street property. Mrs Stewart, who coordinated the programme, said: “The aim was to offer children a memorable and enjoyable experience in which they will feel the presence of the Creator’s love through people of the Christian Church and in which they will know some of the events of the Easter story and its power”.

This was a whole church community effort with 200 volunteers from the local churches taking part. Many talents were discovered and utilised, from cooks to dramatists and builders and folk for tabloids. There were displays showing the meaning of Easter – right down to the donkeys. Around 3,000 children from surrounding schools were taken to view the display.



*‘The Buskers’ – Love In Action, Easter 1983*

For Christmas 1985, the Parish presented ‘*SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS*’. This was also produced by the Stewarts and was held over a week. It involved almost every

member of the Parish in some way. It depicted Christmas in a number of different lands with pictures, items and music, as well as Church members dressed to represent the various countries.

Again this event was wonderfully well attended by the public as well as children from every school in the area again viewing the presentation.



*The Ladies' Chorus – 'Abraham'*

The Stewarts wrote and composed music for two Biblical Musicals during their time in the Parish. The first was 'NEHEMIAH' and the second 'ABRAHAM'. With their skill and enthusiasm, they again managed to use practically every church member and every skill available within the Parish – musicians, singers, people young and older, dancers, costume designers, carpenters and setpainters. Nearly every sewing machine in the area was busily clacking away on costumes. The rehearsals went on for weeks and weeks and, despite some of them looking a shambles, finally these two wonderful musicals were produced and successfully presented to the public.

As well as the Parish having a very busy period of outreach during the 1980s, it also had a few 'firsts', including all those

various ventures during the term of the Stewarts' residency set out above. Another first came in 1985 – one of the well-loved Ministers Reverend Frank (Jock) Drysdale became the first Uniting Church Chaplain in a government school when he was posted to Hamilton Hill High School. It speaks well of his method and manner in being a success in this endeavour, for since then there have been many high schools which have seen the benefit of a chaplain on the staff and introduced chaplains into their schools. Jock also rode several 'Bike-a-thons' to raise funds for this aspect of Christianity in Action. The Parish remains actively involved with high school chaplaincy work in the South Perth area today.

Another of the firsts was in 1985 with the appointment of the first woman Minister to this Church. The Reverend Margaret Tyrer was one of only three women Ministers in the Presbytery of Perth at that time.



*Reverend Margaret Tyrer with Mavis Cleaver*

An Article in the Southern Gazette of 7 May 1985 stated that Margaret was "a champion of women in the church and we would like to see more of them. Women are usually well

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socialised in the community and have caring roles and this can fit them well for the Minister's role of caring involvement in the community".

The Reverend Tyrer, who had moved from Brookton to Perth at the age of 14, had a varied career from shorthand typist, then teacher after training at Teachers Training College, Bible College in Tasmania, service with Missionary Societies in Queensland and Indonesia, and finally into the Ministry. She had Bachelor Degrees in Education and Divinity.

During her time of ministry the sanctuary area was redesigned, removing the communion rail and creating a useable space on the raised area for drama and music.

September, 1987 saw the presentation of a South Perth Uniting Church Family Concert called *Showtime*, which was held in Wesley College Auditorium. This concert was successful as a fundraiser and also in the enjoyment it gave. The artists featured members of the WA Arts Orchestra with guest soloist, baritone Ian Vayne.

### **The South Perth Uniting Church Child Care Centre**

The most recent first has been the building and running of a Child Care Centre in the grounds of the Sandgate Street Church. As the original hall, which was modified for kindergarten work had become extremely run down, it was decided to close it and demolish the building. The long-since unused tennis courts also went. The idea of building a church-run Child Care Centre, which would be the first in the Uniting Church, naturally created concern amongst the Congregation. There was much lively discussion for and against this proposal, for it was an unknown and untried venture in both the practical and financial aspects. Studies indicated there was the need for

such a centre in this area. Finally the venture was undertaken and duly completed and opened on 23 October, 1993.

The Western Impact (Uniting Church publication) contained an article on the matter stating:

*“the Child Care Centre, catering for 45 children, was built at a cost of \$560,000 and was the first to be built and managed by the Uniting Church.”*

It was planned that it would be able to clear its own debt within a few years. The Minister at that time was Reverend Bill Jenkins and he and his wife Heather, who is an educator and psychologist, were very strong supporters of the project. It would seem the proposers and supporters were correct, for the Child Care Centre is now well-patronised and well-run.



At the same time the opportunity was taken to build new meeting rooms for the church and to restore the Angelo Street Hall to its original state. The Child Care Centre had, and still has,

a dedicated committee who firmly believe in the Centre. It also has the support of church members who volunteer their assistance in a variety of ways when required.

In the late 90s, as a result of government policy, many child care centres found their occupancy dropping. This led to financial difficulties in our Centre and the number of places offered was increased to 55. A similar situation occurred in 2000, so in 2002 the Centre opened a room for babies. Since then the Centre has stabilised and now offers 53 places for children aged 0-6 years.

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The Centre's healthy financial situation is largely due to the fact that the proceeds of the sale of the Kensington Church were used to cancel the remaining debt on the buildings.

The Congregation is developing stronger links with the parents and families of the Child Care Centre and Church members assist in many ways.

### **The Church Today (late 1990s)**

It is always an ongoing matter to maintain a Centre of Worship and to be able to meet the needs of the people of the area. We are fortunate to have a very healthy Sunday School at the Church with a faithful band of teachers for the number of young children attending. There is also a group called 'Pilgrims' for single people in the area who meet to share fellowship times and outings. A 'Second 25s' group meet socially from time to time, and meets the needs of those who have passed their first 25 years of age!

Men's Fellowship continues, as does the Ladies Morning Tea gathering, and many church ladies join other Parish ladies for the annual Women's Weekend Away in May each year. A group of young mothers with young children meet for morning coffee and a chat each week.

The regular church choir unfortunately had to disband through lack of singers, though there is still an occasional choir/singing group which performs from time to time.

The Property and Finance Committee run various fundraising events, including Garage Sales and Book Sales.

For a time it seemed to be an aging congregation, but in recent years younger families with young children have been warmly

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welcomed, which shows promise for the future of Sandgate Street Uniting Church in South Perth. At present, the pastoral care is in the hands of Reverend John Marshall.

It would be impossible to name all the people who have worked and assisted the Church over the years, for there have been so many and, without a doubt, some could be mentioned and others omitted which would be hurtful. Many have been faithful in so many ways – organists, stewards, Church Council members, Church Elders, lay preachers, bible readers, flower providers and arrangers. Here I must make mention of Mr Herbert (Bert) Williams who, for many, many years of growing his prize-winning dahlias so lovingly, provided beautiful blooms for the church for about six months of each year until his death.

Choir leaders, Sunday School teachers, cleaners, gardeners, tea makers and many more volunteers abound in the Church Congregation. In fact every member contributes something by their attendance and in their various gifts and abilities. In whatever capacity given, the work has been appreciated.

### **The Future of the Uniting Church in South Perth**

**A**t the end of the 1990s, as we move into the next millennium, the future of the Uniting Church in South Perth looks very promising indeed.

We are a growing Congregation, blessed with lots of children and young families and a genuinely 'all age' Congregation.

While there is bound to be lots of changes and challenges ahead, we believe our future will continue to grow as we grow and find new ways to be a Christian Presence in our community.

In 1999 all three Congregations met for a series of strategic

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planning workshops looking at the future of the Churches. In principle, a decision was made that “The Churches move forward together as one united Congregation”. In accordance with this, further planning saw the Churches meeting for combined services during 2001, and in April 2002 the Churches agreed to combine using one premises. However when the parties could not agree which premises should be used, the negotiations lapsed and the South Perth Congregation subsequently advised the Como Congregation that South Perth would become a separate Congregation from 1 July 2002.

In February 2004, the Church undertook a programme called ‘Future Focus’ to encourage members of the Congregation to consider the future and in 2005 a ‘Time, Talents and Treasures’ programme was undertaken.

As the South Perth manse was vacated it is now being used for children’s and youth work, meetings and other functions. Inside the Worship Centre in 2005 a number of fabric sails were installed to assist in light and heat control and have given the area a different atmosphere which has been appreciated. At the back of the Worship Centre is a small room which has been converted to the Chapel of Memories. This is used regularly for small services and also contains memorabilia and sacred objects from other churches.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I acknowledge the assistance and permission given from the following:

### **Bibliography**

- *Peninsula City* by Cecil C. Florey
- *On the Swan* by Michael J. Bourke
- History of Swan District of WA
- Uniting Church Archives
- Battye Library
- Christian Endeavour Minute Books
- Ladies' Social Club Minute Books
- Eileen Stokes' notes written 1987
- *South Perth – The Capital's Suburb* by Stuart Joynt
- South Perth Heritage House
- *Southern Gazette*, by kind permission
- West Australian Newspapers, by kind permission

I also gratefully acknowledge the time and expertise given by Judy Siddins and Vida Corbett in transforming my typed pages into this computer-enhanced booklet.

Prepared 1999/2000 by Isabel Giles.  
(*Updates to 2005 by Carol Heatcote.*)

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## LIST OF MINISTERS AND ASSISTANTS FROM 1924 TO 2005

### **As part of Wesley Perth Mission:**

1924-27	Reverend Joseph Green
1928-30	Reverend Herbert Lindley
1931-34	Reverend Howard Pearson
1934-38	Reverend Dr Hubert R. Trennamen MA PhD
1939-40	Reverend John Frederick Whittle
1941-45	Reverend Claude Elizah Butler
1946-47	Reverend Albert Stephenson

### **As separate South Perth Circuit with Missioners:**

1948-49	Reverend Albert Stephenson
1949-52	Reverend George Arthur Jenkins BA Lth
1953-58	Reverend Sydney Harold Saggers BA
1959-63	Reverend John Hough
1963	Reverend Arthur Meyer
1963	Reverend Leonard Broadbent
1964-65	Reverend John Frederick Whittle
1965-67	Reverend Alan Glen Rankin (and in 1969)
1968-73	Reverend Frank Wilmot
1973-77	Reverend Donald W. Pederick

### **After Union, as the Uniting Church**

1977-81	Reverend Donald Pederick
1982-84	Reverend Frank M. Drysdale (Jock)
1985-90	Reverend Margaret Tyrer
1991-93	Reverend William Jenkins
1994-02	Reverend John Marshall
Sept 02-Mar 03	Reverend Solomon Gokavi (interim)
Mar 03-Sep 03	Reverend Brian Thornber (interim)
Dec 03-	Reverend Bruce May

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## **LIST OF MISSIONERS, ASSISTANT MINISTERS, AND JOINT MINISTERS**

### **In South Perth Circuit/Parish/linked Congregations**

1948	Reverend J. Green – retired
1955-62	Reverend W. F. Molloy
1958-59	Reverend Tom L. Nicholls – Manning
1958-63	Reverend Alan Green – Wesley College
1960-62	Reverend J. H. Wilson – Manning
1964-66	Reverend R. Leckey – Como
1963-67	Reverend Arthur Meyer – Como
1965	Probationer Mr J. Steed
1967-69	Reverend R. B. Angus – Wesley College
1968-71	Reverend Robert Boulter – Como
1970-81	Reverend Frank Drysdale – Wesley College
1973-77	Reverend Alan D. Murray – Como

### **After Union, as the Uniting Church Parish/Linked Congregations**

1977-82	Reverend Alan D. Murray – Como
1983-85	Mr Stan Stewart – Como
1986-89	Reverend Maurice Bramwell – Como
1990-94	Reverend Geoff Blyth – Como
1994-99	Reverend Dr Elizabeth Sanderson – Como
2000-02	Reverend Maxine Harrison – Como
2003-	Reverend Marie Wilson – Como

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# SOUTH PERTH UNITING CHURCH LADIES' SOCIAL CLUB

(from Minute Books 1950s and 60s then 1986 – 1995)

## The Early Years: 1940s – 60s

It seems the Ladies' Social Club came into being in the mid-1940s as a means for mothers with young children to be able to meet socially during the day and within the Church family.

A Mrs Butler was one of the foundation members and the speaker at the first meeting. The group started as a Mothers' Fellowship with the children being cared for by Dorothy Jackson in the old kindergarten room, and gradually evolved into the Ladies' Social Club.

After the 1939-45 War, when husbands had returned home, the Ladies' Meetings were altered to evenings while the men looked after the children. The general format of the meetings included music, prayer and devotional, guest speakers and the social and fun side. Minutes and records were kept and there were office bearers and a committee.

Originally the group met for purely social fellowship and not for money-making, although they annually had a function for a charitable cause such as Sister Kate's Homes and the Deaconess Fund. They naturally also contributed to some needs of their Church and proved to be an excellent source of revenue, being able to combine fundraising with fun and fellowship.

Without going into specific activities on specific dates, here is an idea of some of the fundraisers. We can only guess at the fun had at some of these!

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- Sing, say, do or pay!
  - Hat representing a song
  - Apron Parade
  - Jumble Sale with afternoon tea
  - Bus Trip and afternoon tea
  - Produced a Recipe Book
  - Fashion Parade with each member dressed to represent a room of a home!
  - Beetles afternoons
  - Opportunity tables
  - Bridal Frock Parade

One evening was a Problem Evening when all told of their problems and a panel of 'wise ones' provided the solutions! An example recorded is:

- Q. What to do with a husband who walks in his sleep?*  
*A. Open the door – and the gate.*

What a pity more of this evening's problems and answers weren't recorded – it might have been enlightening and helped others in similar predicaments!

Some of their functions were presented to the wider community and Church families, such as their flower shows, concerts and garden parties, many of which they held at the home of Mr and Mrs Harry and Flo Johnson. The ladies conducted an annual Church Service – usually around Mothers' Day, when they arranged the service, provided an item and a guest speaker. In earlier days they organised annual outings for patients from Mt Henry Hospital, bringing the patients to the church in taxis. Assistance for these days came from the whole Circuit which then included South Perth Church, Ladies Fellowship, Kensington, Manning, Como and Mt Pleasant.

There was also a regular 'visiting' service to Mt Henry and sometimes parties were held there. Some of the visits were of an

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instructive nature and on one occasion the ladies very nervously tried a flower-arranging demonstration. They anticipated maybe 12 – 14 would attend, so were delighted when 35 patients attended.

The guest speakers in the early days were many and varied. Included were Sister Ella Williams, a policewoman, Mrs Butler (foundation member), each new minister to the church, and speakers from most Synod Departments and many charities which usually received a donation for their work.

In October 1959, to mark their anniversary, they arranged a special service and invited Mrs Butler, foundation member, to give the address.

As a project for 'helping others' they organised a very successful flower show which benefitted the Training Centre for Deaconesses by an amount of thirty-five pounds. A 'Grand Variety Concert' was held in May 1962 to raise funds for the South Perth New Church Fund.

Apparently in about 1960, some poor soul had the audacity to criticise the Ladies' Fellowship and query its usefulness! Forthwith a list was produced of its financial achievements for the Church. Some sympathy is felt for that poor soul, but with what joy must the Ladies' Fellowship have produced the evidence of all their wonderful work.

In 1959 it was stated that the aim of the Ladies' Social Club, as it had then become known, was:

*“Whilst providing relaxation and devotions for members, also to endeavour to assist in every Department of the work of the Church”.*

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They certainly achieved their aim as hereunder are some of the beneficiaries from work of the Ladies' Social Club.

- Children's Homes – varied items for Guild Cottage and cash
- Home, Central and Overseas Missions – regular cash donations and later to Frontier Services
- Mogumber
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Deaconess Fund
- Church Manse Trust Fund and Furnishing Fund and Sites Fund
- Kindergarten equipment
- Donations to Friends of Ba Hospital in Fiji and Vellore Hospital in India
- Appeals for various disaster areas like Pakistan, Korea, Meckering and others
- Donations to Charities for Deaf Society, Cancer Appeal, Blind Association, Bible and Temperance Societies, Manguiri, Arthritis Foundation and Prison Outreach
- Donations to the new Rowethorpe in cash, goods and books for the library

They often had guest speakers from the various groups listed above.

For their own church and Circuit they donated to:

- Piano Fund (1952)
- Southcare
- Kensington Guild Building Fund
- Chaplaincy funds for Hamilton Hill and Como
- Organ Fund (1966)
- Funds for paving outside Church, cups, vases, curtains, carpet, lino, painting, kitchen cupboards
- Church Hymn Books
- Books for new Child Care Centre.

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Although there is a gap in records from the above until 1986 – 1995, it can be assumed that they continued to enjoy their meetings and continued to organise activities to raise funds for many worthy causes and their church.

### **The 1980s and 90s**

In the 1980s the format of the meetings remained the same but there were fewer members and, in order to make it easier for some of the ladies, the meetings were changed from evening to an afternoon and later again to members' homes. Although it had occasionally been suggested that this group combine with the Como Ladies' Guild, it never did eventuate as Como's meetings were in the afternoon and the Social Club ladies at that time preferred the evenings. However, this did not prevent them from working together on many occasions.

In the 1980s and 90s, the Ladies Annual Church Service was continued, as were fetes, garden parties and concerts. For the Sandgate Street Church Anniversary in 1987 a successful, pleasant Sunday afternoon was held, followed by afternoon tea. About the same year, the Ladies' Social Club, on behalf of South Perth Church, became listed on the roster for monthly lamington days, undertaken in the Como Uniting Church hall. These were great fundraisers as well as happy times working together with other ladies of the Circuit in the making and packing of hundreds of lamingtons in a very thoroughly organised manner, thanks to the skills of Mrs Elaine Cleaver. The extra funds thus raised and passed on to the Property & Finance Committee allowed for the painting of the hall kitchen, lino for the church kitchen, a hand rail for the hall steps, mending of pew cushions, new church hymn books in large print, as well as large print communion and baptismal books; new vases and artificial greenery for the church.



Despite the smaller numbers, the ladies continued to endeavour to attract new members by regularly having guest speakers on various topics such as:

- the Oberamergau Passion Play by Mrs Joan Drysdale, wife of Reverend Jock Drysdale;
- travel talks;
- Good Samaritan Industries;
- Aboriginal Medical Service;
- N-gala;
- readings of a book written by member, Peg Allen, telling of her days teaching in one-teacher, government schools in earlier years; and
- in-flight nursing during the Vietnam War, by another of our members, Miss Ella Bone, which was most enlightening.

They organised day bus tours open to all, to such places as Buckland House in Northam, Alcoa, Guilderton, Mandurah, and Carmel/Araluen where the picnic lunch was enjoyed in the bus while the rain poured outside. These were friendly and happy days.



*Ladies Social Club Bus Trip to Araluen – September 1990*

For several years the Ladies Club held a Christmas Break-up Dinner to which they invited husbands and guests and provided some entertainment. One innovation was an International Night when groups of ladies represented four different and varying countries of the world. Where possible, the ladies were appropriately dressed to represent the countries, and display tables held items, information and food of the country they represented – a very colourful evening. On another occasion they provided afternoon tea and entertainment to ladies of local retirement villages and nursing homes, and this was very worthwhile.

Even with these new ideas they were unable to attract any new or younger members so disbandment was suggested. However, the ladies were very reluctant to take this step, so they carried on in a less formal manner, meeting at different members' homes and many meetings and Christmas luncheons were held



*L-R: Lenore Bremner, Betty Stenhouse, Irene Harwood, Eileen Stokes,  
Mildred Manning, Nancy Le Souef.*

in the cool of Miss Ella Bone's lovely shady garden. During the cooler months they revelled in the cosiness of Mrs Flo Johnson's delightful family room.

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As various members moved from the district, and some moved to retirement villages, the numbers dwindled drastically until the only course of action was to sadly close the chapter of the South Perth Ladies' Social Club after so many successful, fruitful and happy years. Some of the earlier meetings were attended by over 25 members but on closing it was down to six or eight members. To close the accounts, an amount of \$2,430.24 was donated to the Property and Finance Committee.

Some of the ladies still felt the need for a get-together and Mrs Flo Johnson kindly offered her home as a monthly meeting place for a cuppa and a chat and, at the time of preparing these notes, this monthly Monday morning gathering is continuing.

As it is impossible to suggest that one person would have contributed more than another, it must be stated that every member was important and played her part in keeping the club and its fellowship going over all these years, whether in leadership, devotions, afternoon teas or in the many ways assistance would have been given in meetings and fundraising activities. What a lot of friendships were made and personal support given to each other! Times have changed and needs have changed, but there are still some regrets that such a group for ladies does not still exist within the Church life, however it is good that we record their work.

## Names of Ladies who were part of the Ladies' Social Club

ALLEN, Peg  
ANSELL, Gert  
BAILEY, Lyn  
BAWDEN, Phyl  
BLENCOWE  
BROWN  
BRISBANE, Rhoda  
CLEAVER, Mavis  
COLLETT, Merle  
DOWNING, Ella  
DRYSDALE, Joan  
GATHERCOLE  
GILES, Isabel  
GOODIN, Nell  
HARWOOD, Irene  
HENDRY, Peta  
HOUGH Jeanette  
KING, Iris  
KNUCKEY, Edie  
LANGDON, Ann  
LOCKHART, Kay  
McARDELL, Nancy  
MANN, Win  
MORGAN  
NELSON, Mavis  
NICHOLLS, Enid  
PHILLIPS, Alice  
ROBINSON  
SEAMAN, Freda  
SMOUT, Connie  
STEWART, Win  
SYMONDS  
TAYLOR, Mina  
WATERHOUSE, Verna  
WILSON  
WRIGHT, Val  
YATES, S or J

ANSELL, Ethel  
BAILEY, Edna  
BARNETT, Heather  
BEASLEY, Dora  
BONE, Ella  
BREMNER, Lenore  
CLARKE, Verna  
COAD, Thelma  
CRAWFORD, Dorothy  
DRUMMOND, Alice  
DUNCAN, Nell  
GANNAWAY, Val  
GINBEY, Win  
GULLIVER, Peg  
HEAVEY, May  
HORNIBROOK, Nell  
JOHNSON, Flo  
KNOWLES, Enid  
KREIGOMAN  
LINTON, Margaret  
LUCAS, Bertha  
McGRATH, Jean  
MAXWELL, Nancy  
MORGAN, Joy  
NICHOLAS, Dorothy  
PAGE, Mollie  
REES, Dolly  
SAGGERS, Jessie  
SEMPLE, Phyl  
SPRUNT  
STOKES, Eileen  
TATE, Lorna  
THOMAS, Nancy  
WILLIAMS, Dot  
WOODHEAD, Beth  
WYNNE, Jean  
Most Minister's Wives

## SOUTH PERTH CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR GROUPS

South Perth Christian Endeavour Group was started by Nessie Gray (sister of Mrs Lockhart) and the Juniors were started by Ethel Ansell. I haven't been able to find the year in which these groups commenced, but in the Minutes from Leaders' Meetings held in 1936 (Battye) it states that Young People's Christian Endeavour were having attendances of 18, whilst the Juniors were having 10 in attendance.

In 1938 the Junior Endeavourers were split into Intermediate and Juniors, so there must have been good attendances at that stage, although the Intermediates must have waned for a time. It is stated in Battye Library (3661A/17) that the Intermediate Endeavourer group was commenced by Mrs E. Peters.

In 1954 there appears to have been 120 young people on the Church Roll but apparently there was difficulty maintaining their interest in the Church as, at a Leaders' Meeting held that year, the Leaders were asked to discuss the problems of youth.



The Minutes of the Young People's Christian Endeavour Meetings held in 1950/51 reveal an active group with their Roll Call being answered by 20 young people. In these same years the Minutes reveal the names of 48 different young people taking part.

The normal format of the meetings seems to have been as follows:

1. Songs
2. Bible Reading
3. Hymn
4. Pledge and Roll Call

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5. Prayer
  6. Hymn
  7. Minutes
  8. Paper and Discussion
  9. Chain Prayer
  10. Hymn and Mizpah Benediction

Although there was usually an adult leader/adviser in attendance, the leading of the meetings and activities were taken by different members and most took part in Chain Prayer.

The Young People also prepared the paper and entered into the discussion. On some occasions, the current Minister or Missioner would lead the address and discussions. Their topics dealt with weighty matters and the reading of some of the papers presented reveal that the young people of the day put a lot of thought and study into their presentations. Some of the topics were:

- Justification;
- Personal Evangelism;
- The Cross in Daily Life;
- Kingship of Jesus;
- Fruit of the Spirit;
- Love, Courtship and Marriage; and
- Danger of Broken Homes in the Community.

Over 40 years later, this last topic has not yet been solved!

The Endeavourers had guest speakers and missionary meetings with advice about various Mission Stations – the work being carried out and the needs of these Stations.

On top of all this, the groups:

- had exchange meetings with other groups;
- held a pageant at the Royal Show;
- attended the annual Easter Camps;
- had an Orange and Flower Sunday when they visited children's hospitals and seniors' nursing homes and sang hymns and choruses to the residents;

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- had Easter Camps, held at Glen Forrest, which were wonderful events of fun, frolic and friendship – lots of music by way of hymns and choruses as well as thought-provoking speakers;
  - followed up the Easter Camps with regular camp reunions where they could again enjoy the spirit and friendship of the camps; and
  - attended State and National Conventions. One was held in Perth in 1962 with some meetings being held in the Metro Theatre in William Street.

At a National Fellowship of Christian Endeavour, held in February 1969, the South Perth Circuit received a Donor Club Certificate. At the time, the National Superintendent was Mr Bob Robinson and the National President was Mr Richard Cleaver (himself a member of the South Perth Congregation).

The Christian Endeavour Society and meetings were a great learning area, for as well as receiving a knowledge of Christianity and the Scriptures, it was also a training ground in chairing and leading a meeting, acting as secretary or treasurer, overcoming nervousness in speaking out, and taking part in the Chain Prayer. Many Endeavourers have grown up to enter the ministry or hold office within churches, and many have acquitted themselves well in public life and, in general, become good citizens. For them all it will be a time of their lives that they remember with thankfulness and great fondness.

Unfortunately Christian Endeavour in this area appears to have ceased in the late 1970s, with no similar structure to take its place.

*[NOTE: Information obtained from minute books held by Carol Heathcote.]*

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## PARISH LADIES CAMP

### Early Beginnings

In October 1964, Mrs Edna Bailey, from this Parish, was invited by Mrs Gwen Meyer, wife of Reverend Arthur Meyer, then the Minister of the Maylands Methodist Church, to attend a camp at Le Fanu House, Cottesloe. The camp had been arranged by the Maylands Circuit. After a very inspiring weekend, both ladies were sufficiently enthused to suggest that the ladies of the South Perth Circuit should arrange a camp.

This was duly organised and on the weekend of 19 to 21 March, 1965, the first camp was held at Le Fanu House. Fourteen ladies attended this inaugural camp where the speakers were Sister Ella, Mrs Heyhoe and Mrs E. Nicholls. A Communion Service was conducted by Reverend Arthur Meyer. Those who attended the first Camp were:

Gwen Meyer (Leader)

Edna Bailey (Secretary)

Wyn Cook (Treasurer)

Gert Ansell

Orma Middleton

Joan Canning

Betty Monger

Cec Hood

Val Parker

Jean Farrall

Maxine Robinson

Dot MacEwan

Myrtle Thomas

June Markham

*[Information provided by Dulcie Bocking]*

### The Tradition Continues

Since those early beginnings, a great tradition has grown into the current Women's Weekend Away (still often called 'Ladies' Camp'), which has been organised every year between the



South Perth, Como, Kensington and Manning Uniting Church ladies.

The camp is facilitated by a different leader each year, with a theme chosen by the Organising Committee which is set up at the end of each camp for the next year.

A wonderful mixture of fun, fellowship, reflection and worship, the camp is looked forward to by all those ladies who have participated over the years. This annual event is still going strong, with many of the women of these Congregations coming along every year. There is every sign this annual camp will continue to be a powerful part of the life of the women in these Congregations.

As at 2005 the tradition continues and has expanded to include women of other churches. At the 2005 weekend, five of the original members were invited to visit for the 40th anniversary of the Women's Weekend Away (as it is now known).



*L-R: Edna Bailey, xx, Gwen Meyer, Val Parker, Dot MacEwan*

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## SOUTH PERTH UNITING CHURCH MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

I have been unable to find the exact date for the beginnings of the Men's Fellowship but in archival material at the Batty Library (3661A/16) there are Minutes of Leaders' Meetings in which there is mention of Reports from Men's Meetings to the Leaders' Meetings held 13 April 1936, 18 February 1939 and 18 March 1952. The next mention is in 1963 when, at a Circuit Meeting, Reverend J. Hough launched a Men's Society (3661A/21), and this fact was published in the Methodist Messenger publication.

In Circuit Finance Committee Minutes (3661A/13), we find the Constitution of the Men's Society to be known as 'The Methodist Men's Society of the South Perth Circuit'. Details of this group are set out below.

### **Membership:**

Open to all men over 17 years of age willing to subscribe to the objects of the Society. Annual Membership Fee to be 10/-.

### **Objects:**

1. To worship God through Jesus Christ.
2. To bring together the men of the church in order that they may understand each other better.
3. To unite men for more effective fellowship and service.

At a Leaders' Meeting on 7 April 1964, it was moved and adopted that the proposed Constitution of the Methodist Men's Society of the South Perth Circuit be forwarded to Synod for approval.

In 1963, during the Ministry of Reverend Len Broadbent, he was approached by Mr Hector Lister suggesting a Saturday 7.00 am Service be held for men. Over 30 men attended. The

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format of their early meetings is not known but in the 1950s Reverend J. Hough suggested that the Ladies of the Church cater for the men's monthly Tea Meetings at a cost and as a means of raising funds for the new Sandgate Street Church. This was undertaken and organised by Mrs Eleanor Knuckey and helpers, and in later succession by Mesdames Judy Pederick, Dot McEwan and finally Bobbie White for many years. After an enjoyable tea, the men would hold their meeting. They annually elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and arranged to have a guest speaker each month, and the topics were many and varied. Some of the topics were sports, geology, customs clearing, aboriginal archaeology, government, various religions and foreign policy. At their Christmas meetings, the ladies were invited to join them. This format continued for many years. The Men's Society disbanded in 1997 after many years as a means of fellowship for the men of the Parish, as well as a widening of knowledge provided by the many and varied guest speakers.

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## CHURCH CAMPS

The South Perth Circuit held annual camps at various places, although over the years most seem to have been held at Watermans Bay. These camps were well organised and supervised and followed a similar format. Obviously by the seventh camp they well and truly had it 'under control' and the following details of the 7th Camp held at Point Walter from 27 January to 5 February 1956 appears to be typical of the activities.

From brief notes available, these camps appear to have had strict rules and were well programmed to every detail and hour of the day – from rising at 6.30 am to lights out at 10.00 pm.

Between these hours activities ranged from:

- prayer meetings;
- study and discussion sessions;
- song times;
- services;
- meals;
- walks;
- entertainment; and
- general fun.

The cost of the camp was £4 (\$8). The Speaker for this camp was Reverend Arthur Meyer. From the 1956 programme, it can be seen why it was so 'organised', as the following is the extensive Committee:

- Chairman: S. Saggars
- Vice Chairman: E. Peters (Snr), L. Morrell
- Secretary: R. Knowles
- Assistant Secretary: N. Goodin
- Camp Organiser: J. de Laeter
- Assistant Camp Organiser: R. Robinson
- Treasurer: G. Lockhart

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- Assistant Treasurer: D. Sagers
  - Camp Mother: Mrs C. Lockhart
  - Assistant Camp Mother: Mrs Sagers

There were also sub-committee convenors for the programme, catering, sports, transport, publicity, welfare, music, finance and literature. There was a new committee each year. It looks as though nearly everyone had a job!

The January 1961 Camp received a mention in *The West Australian* newspaper of 4 January 1961 – “SOUTH PERTH CHURCHES TO HOLD A CAMP”.

The article stated that 90 young people from South Perth Methodist Circuit would be holding a Summer Camp at Watermans Bay Church of Christ site for nine days from 27 January. This particular camp would be one of their biggest and the speaker would be Reverend Lloyd Semple from the Home Missions Department of the Methodist Church of WA.

It was planned to have a series of talks and discussion groups in the mornings but a complete social and sporting programme was planned for the afternoons, including a table tennis tournament, picnic and six-mile run! The study books were prepared by Shirley Richardson of the Methodist Church Young People's Department.

Over the years, many groups have enjoyed the camping experience and, while the camps in the 1960s were for young people, most of those in later years have focussed on the church families. Camps in bush surroundings were enjoyed in 2004 and 2005 and it is anticipated that these will continue.

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## THE CHURCH CHOIR

The formation date of South Perth Methodist Church Choir was not found, but in the Minutes of Leaders' Meeting on 4 February 1941, a report was given of the choir, presumably under direction of Mrs McKenna at that time.

These monthly reports continued but in March 1952, the choir-mistress, Mrs Howell, moved to Como and so the choir was sometimes led by Mr Brisbane and sometimes by Mrs Knowles, the organist.

A shortage of singers seems to have been an ongoing problem. However, in 1974, an augmented Como choir presented the Petersen cantata, *Joy to the World*, at Como and South Perth. In the August 1976 publication of the Circuit Bulletin *United Messenger*, it was stated:

*"As the Choir was small they could only sing occasionally and suggest the Congregation make each hymn an anthem by thinking of the words and singing them with feeling".*

The conductress in 1977, Mrs Helene Schroeder, pleaded for singers. Mrs Schroeder worked patiently and tirelessly with her small band of sometimes itinerant singers. She always endeavored to have the anthem match the Lectionary Readings. Under her guidance, the choir was able to present special music for Christmas and Easter, and combined with Como Church Choir to present cantatas and a 'People's Messiah'.

Mrs Schroeder also organised for South Perth choir to combine with Bicton/Palmyra's larger choir in the presentation of some beautiful cantatas which gave her choir members great pleasure.



*Edna Bailey, Val Gannaway, Isabel Giles, Phyl Bowden*

When Synod has, at various times, approved publication of new, modernised hymn books, Mrs Schroeder first taught some of the hymns to the choir and then gradually introduced them to the Congregation.

Mrs Schroeder was ever gracious and generous in her work with the choir and always willing to share her musicianship. Unfortunately, there is no regular choir at the present time, owing to a lack of singers, but Mrs Schroeder's commitment has always been appreciated. Under the leadership of Mrs Edna Bailey, a group of singers provide an item once a month.

Music in the church has undergone many changes over the years and this is reflected in the different styles of music now in use. *Together in Song* introduced more modern songs and from 2002 the use of music became more important. Many children enjoyed this, and in 2004 it was decided to introduce guitars and other instruments. As at 2005 a music group assists at every service, with the exception of the third Sunday of the month which is allocated to older, favourite hymns.

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## THE SECOND 25s GROUP

In 1975 there were only two families with young children attending South Perth Methodist Church at Sandgate Street – Heather and Phillip Passmore, and Jillian and Ian Harris.

We both had babies at this time and it was difficult to socialise, so we decided to meet regularly at each other's homes for a meal. During the next few years the number of babies increased and more young families joined the Congregation. A Family Service with Sunday School was instigated at Broome Street Uniting Church (formerly Presbyterian).

The growing group of young families began to call themselves the Over-25s group, meeting regularly at each other's homes once a month for a shared meal. Later this became more intermittent, but meetings continued three or four times a year.

Over time the name was changed to 'the Second 25s Group' and extended to include anyone across the Parish who wished to attend. Meetings have been very spasmodic of late. The new 'Pilgrims' group has, to some extent, taken over this role. Also, the Young Mothers' Group now caters for young families in the Church.

There have been many changes in the circumstances of many previous members of the group and we really need to redefine the purpose and aim of this group, to assess its role in the life of our Church in the future.

*[Prepared by Mrs Jillian Harris]*

### **PRAM PARADE**

In 2004-2005 the Pram Parade set out once a week to provide a fellowship opportunity for young mothers. A 45-minute walk was followed by coffee and a chat, using the manse.



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## THE COMMUNION CLOTH

*“I can only tell what happened after I came to South Perth in 1984. Margaret Tyrer was the minister and communion was served on a rectangular cloth on a hexagonal table, so I volunteered to make a more appropriate cloth. The only material that came in adequate width was sheeting and so evolved a circular cloth covered by a circular lace cloth. Enter Peta Hendry, with her excellent crochet ability and much patience to devise the pattern and execute the magnificent cloth that we have today. She has spoken to the Congregation on two occasions about the cloth and its symbols.” – Wendy Averis*

### **The Communion Table Cloth**

This cloth was made by Mrs Peta Hendry and presented to the church on the occasion of her 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mrs Hendry designed and crocheted the lace which depicts, in stylised form, Christian symbols with a cross at the centre of each panel.

There are four panels, each with a different theme, which are repeated to make eight panels in all, for the eight sided table. An explanation of the symbols used, with bible references, is attached.

### **FIRST PANEL – THE LORD’S SUPPER**

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| a. The Fruit of the Vine | John 15:1–8     |
| b. The Cup               | Luke 22:20      |
| c. The Cross             | Colossians 1:20 |
| d. The Broken Bread      | Luke 22:19      |
| e. Ear of Wheat          | Luke 11:5       |



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## CITY OF SOUTH PERTH MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY

### Uniting Church Hall – former Methodist Church, Corner Angelo and Sandgate Streets, South Perth

Period: Inter War

Design Style: Federation, Freestyle influences

Construction Date: 1925

Architectural Assessment by D Kelsall, Heritage Architect, 1999.

#### HISTORICAL NOTES

This building was designed by the architect James Hine FRIBA, who qualified as an architect in 1873 at Leominster and Ludlow, England and moved to South Africa in 1881 and Bathurst, NSW in 1883 where he was art master at the Technical School and Diocesan Architect to the Anglican Church. He moved to the west in 1895 where he was responsible for the design of a large number of churches and involved in church school development – the most important being St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Perth. He is noted for his interest in ‘matters affecting the welfare of Protestant Churches’ and as a member of the ‘masonic fraternity’.

In 1907, Hine won a competition assessed by Hillson Beasley to prepare a design for Methodist Ladies College in Claremont and in 1925 was commissioned to prepare designs for an extension to the building. The headmistress of the school between 1913 and 1945 was Gertrude Walton, and her husband JP Walton was a stalwart of the Methodist faith in Western Australia.

Hine drew up plans for the South Perth Methodist Church and the foundation stone was laid on 5 September 1925 by JP Walton.

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The building was constructed by E Allwood.

In 1962 a new Methodist church was built in Sandgate Street. At a later stage the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Australia joined to become the Uniting Church, so there was a name change. The former church was then used as a church hall. The new building has recently been linked at the entrance to a child care centre to the north.

## **DESCRIPTION**

The former Methodist church building is located very close to Wesley College on the opposite side of Angelo Street. The school did not have a dedicated chapel until post WWII and used the church up until that time.

The building is a red face brick structure with an elaborate street facade and a cantilevered bracketed porch. The facade has set back buttresses at the corners with matching pilasters and some herringbone pattern brick infill, a stepped parapetted brick gable, precast and pressed cement (now painted) render and capping units complete the external materials.

The nave has brick buttressing and is tied with a painted ring beam at the plate. The joinery frames are timber and the roof is two pitched and clad with Marseilles pattern terra cotta tiles. The ridge tiles are of interest.

In 2000 the integrity of the building is high and the condition moderate. It would appear that the roof framing is in need of conservation.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Methodist Church has aesthetic, historic, social and representative cultural heritage significance. It is a fine example of an Inter War building, with strong Federation Freestyle

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influences. It was designed by a well-known architect, James Hine, who also designed Methodist Ladies College in Claremont in 1907. The church served the local South Perth Methodist community as well as the Wesley College community prior to the building of a chapel on the school campus post WWII. The church was used as a church hall after a new church was built in 1962. Together with other additional facilities, eg a child care service, the complex provides an important social function for the Uniting Church community in South Perth.

## **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category: B

Worthy of a high level of protection: provide maximum encouragement to the owner under the City of South Perth Town Planning Scheme to conserve the significance of the place. A more detailed Heritage Assessment/Impact Statement to be undertaken before approval given for any major redevelopment. Incentives to promote conservation should be considered.