



CCC THE MESSENGER

MILSONS POINT

CCC Newsletter

Letter to the Church by Frank Lee

The Board of Elders (BoE) consisting of the elected Elders, the Pastoral Team and the Chairman of each Diaconate would like to use this newsletter to share about the church, the governance and pastoral matters.

We praise God for providing Eric Shing to our church. He will focus primarily on the Cantonese Ministry.

The BoE plans refresh the Church website and the Church property. Committees are been set up to look into this. Processes and procedures are being updated and will be made available to the church.

Options for the current property and 1C2L initiatives are being examined for strategic direction.

Please pray for these areas and for the leaders to work together in wisdom and openness.

Serving with you
Frank Lee

Budget 2019

The Board of Elders would like to thank all church members who have contributed financially to the various church funds over the year.

The General Fund has a surplus of \$108K last year due to strong giving from the members and a lower number of pastors. Mission Fund has a \$41K deficit. Although the surplus in the General Fund covers the Mission Fund last year, the situation will change when the vacancies become filled. We like to encourage more support for missions.

The new budget for this year is broadly similar to last year. Although the budget is showing a deficit, an actual surplus is expected for 2019 because it is unlikely we will hire all 5 pastors this year.

New funds are allocated for 3 key areas: Evangelism, Spiritual Growth and Training.

We are thankful to the Bible Society for sharing almost half of the cost of the Byfield due diligence.

Redeemer City Church

Redeemer is officially a CCC service reaching out to Chatswood City with a large number of English speaking, non-Christian Asians and Chinese community.

They meet at 10am on Level 7 at the Sebel with prayer meetings, kids talks and an English Service with an average attendance of about 50.

They engage the local community by having events. 120,000 visitors attended the Emerge Festival where Redeemer has a stall. A number of Mandarin speaking guests turned up and Redeemer refers them to CCC Milsons Point.

Redeemer welcomes you to visit their service and to help out with their events, especially if you can speak Mandarin.

Please pray for them as they seek the lost for Jesus Christ in Chatswood.

Serving with you
Redeemer Leadership Team

Letter to the Church

by Elder Frank Lee,
Chairman Board of Elders

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The leadership prays that we can use this regular newsletter to share what is happening at the Board of Elders Meetings (BoE). Firstly, the BoE is made up of the elected Elders, the Pastoral Team and the Chairman of each Diaconate (or their delegates). This group is tasked with overseeing the church Governance and Pastoral matters together so that the church can do the ministries and run.



Let me share things we can praise God about; Things we can pray about and matters that are being worked on by the leadership.

We can praise and thank God that in the area of Finance we have been working on two fronts:

- (a) We have purchased a tool to manage the accounts improve the process time for reimbursements and reduce the need for cheques.
- (b) The Office is also preparing guidelines and policies for reimbursements.

Praise God for answering the prayers of the church and for providing Pastor Eric Shing to the church. He will be focussed primarily on the Cantonese Ministry. Let us all pray that he will fit in with the pastoral team and the Cantonese congregation; and we can lovingly include Pastor Eric, his wife and family into CCC.

The BoE plans to introduce a Digital Media program to:

- (a) Refresh the Church web site.
- (b) To communicate and reach the community using FaceBook, Instagram, WhatsApp and WeChat, other similar and appropriate mediums.

In addition, we are reviewing the processes and procedures of our church in the coming period to make them current and accessible to members.

Regarding Church property matters, a building inspection has been carried out on Milsons Point, fundamentally, the church is safe, but there are some areas needing attention. We have started a team to look into the maintenance matters that will arise, to plan the tasks to prioritise and manage the works. Additionally, we are discussing what options there are regarding the property at Milsons Point and the 1C2L initiative.

I ask the church to pray for these areas, giving thanks that God has provided willing helpers and workers to help. Continue to ask God that the leadership will work together in wisdom and openness to see the many initiatives and concerns which arise in our church.

Serving with you,
Frank Lee



Pastoral Letter

by Rev Ying Yee



Greetings,

Every church has its problems. This has been true of the past, continues to be true of all churches throughout the world and is equally true of our church. How can it be otherwise? The church was founded on Grace and Grace alone. This means, above all else, that God brings in all sorts of people, from all walks of life, personality types, into His community, irrespective of what they are like. And often the people He invites may not necessarily be the people, if we had a choice, would have chosen to be part of our community. Nevertheless the character of the gospel is that God invites people into His community, not because they are so good but rather because God is so good. One only needs to read the letter to the Ephesians. In God's graciousness, He made both Jews and Gentiles to be part of His community called the church. If you know anything about the relationship between Jews and Gentiles they were bitter enemies in the ancient world. Yet in God's kindness, He made the two one. In so doing it demonstrates to the world something which only God can do and that is that He is the expert in turning enemies into friends. And church is the training ground in which He trains his people how to love each other.

What this means is that the difficulties of church are surprisingly normal. It is what we should expect from a community of sinners who are, in God's grace, learning the painful task of loving each other in the way Christ loved us

Nevertheless despite the difficulties there is so much to praise God for. We can praise Him because of His unconditional love for His people. We can praise Him because His church is so precious that He died for us. We can praise Him because the Spirit of God continues to faithfully do His work in slowly but surely transforming His people more and more into the likeness of Christ,

I love spending time talking to people and asking them how their walk with God is coming along and I am always amazed by the way God is working in the lives of people throughout the whole of CCC.

Often times we hear about the great work God is doing through our missionaries overseas. What we often don't hear about is the small, quiet but great work that God is doing in the lives of individuals at CCC and through her members.

In the last few years we have seen the Children and Youth Ministry slowly being rebuilt. Last year we saw people come to our church who did not know Jesus and within a few weeks of talking to our members, gave their lives to Christ. We have seen both the Cantonese and the Mandarin ministries continue to grow from strength to strength. Late last year, for the first time we have seen the three English congregations come together with a desire to work closer together for the sake of the gospel.

It is heart warming to see believers in the 9:15 English congregation, who have served the Lord for many decades, continue to express a desire to keep growing, keep praying and to keep sharing the gospel to those around them.

It has been exciting to see the PT and the Elders come together with a renewed desire and determination to work closer together to grow CCC into a much stronger church for the future and for our next Generation.

And yes Redeemer had a difficult start, nevertheless God continues demonstrates His love for His people at Redeemer by blessing it with slow but steady growth.

There is still a long way to go and there are still many challenges. And on this side of eternity we will still have many problems. Nevertheless we can still look to the future with hope, confidence, praising our God because our future is ultimately in His safe hands.

Rev Ying Yee



ERIC SHING

Questions and Answers

Praise God for providing Pastor Eric Shing to the church. We are blessed to have him with us. To help the church understand him a bit better, our intrepid reporter Edwin Choi asked him a few probing questions. Here are some secrets that have been uncovered:

How many times do you wear a pair of jeans before you need to wash it?

When I was young I had pairs of jeans but as being more and more mature, I seldom wear them.

What is a home project, craft or hobby that you tried that didn't go so well?

There are a lot! One of my wife's major concerns is to take care of the backyard. This is still a major project in 2019 or 2020.

If you could eat only one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Crispy roast pork! Especially when cooked with bean curd in Chinese style.

What is the story behind the time you went the longest without sleep?

Insomnia is rare to me. My wife always says, I can fall into sleep in 5 second. Even though facing tough times, I sleep well.

List Top 5 songs (in order) you would compile your music playlist.

My playlist consists of songs and classical music.

1. Yo Yo Ma playing cello (Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major)
2. Hymn: Turn your eyes upon Jesus
3. Popular song: 似水流年 (Times go by) By Anita Mui
4. Hymn: Be thou my vision
5. Hymn: Make me a blessing

What would your perfect week look like?

It must be a work-life balanced week, have done some meaningful work, great time with my family, a lot of reading and meditation, and feeling blissful.

Can you describe how you became a Christian?

For me, the path of becoming a Christian was very straight forward and simple. In high school years, a friend of mine invited me to the church and I accepted Christ as my personal saviour during an evangelistic event in the church. Later, the Holy Spirit moved my sinful heart, I confessed my sin and entrusted myself to Christ through prayer. After that, Christ is not simply my saviour but also my personal Lord.

What is one Bible verse that has really spoken to your heart?

When I was young, I prayed to the Lord if He will allow me to serve Him as a pastor. 2 Corinthians 8:12 came into my mind, "For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have," God helped me to get ready for the ministry by providing opportunity to study in the Bible college and preparing CCC for me to serve Him.



Mandarin Congregation

Since the beginning of 2019, we have 62 newcomers visited our Sunday Service. They are mainly from China. Half of them are residents, the rest are overseas students and visitors. Many of them were brought along by their Christian friends. Fellowship over church lunch is a very important way of extending our love to the newcomers. It also allows the members to stay back for bible study and choir practice. We have rostered the Mandarin Bible Study Group to prepare the lunch. We still need helpers. We are thankful for assistance from other services. We pray that many more can offer their help as an expression of our unity in the Lord Jesus Christ in CCC. If you would like to help, please see Isbel Lewis – 0416173762

We are expecting 6 people to be baptized on 21 April, Easter Sunday. The chosen date will help the newly baptized they have been baptized into the death and raised from the death just as Christ was raised from the dead (Romans 6:4).

Rev Chris Chua



Hello from Redeemer City Church!

Hello everyone! We are Redeemer City Church :)

Thanks to everyone who has visited in the 2 years since we started meeting. Come visit if you haven't already!

So who are we? Redeemer is officially a CCC service, although on the ground we function like a church plant. Our primary aim is to reach Chatswood City. As you all know Chatswood has a massive number of unreached English-speaking non-Christians, so our deepest desire is for them to come to know Christ. Redeemer is committed to Chatswood. Chatswood at this time does have a huge number of Asians/Chinese, which matches Redeemer's demographics, although Redeemer prefers to not be locked down to an ethnic group, just so we are free to evolve with Chatswood.

On the ground what does Redeemer look like? We meet at 10am at Level 7 at The Sebel, or 9am if you are keen to join us for our prayer meeting. We have quite a few younger kids around so our service incorporates a kids talk before they go off to Redeemer Kids (our Sunday School). Both the kids and adults love these kids talks!

We are engaging with the local community in Chatswood. Did you know the Emerge Festival StreetFair had over 120000 visitors last year? Redeemer had a stall there two years in a row! We have also hosted events such as Christmas In July, a mooncake-making extravaganza, and right now we are busy planning an egg-decorating Easter event for April. Come visit our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) to find out more!



Also, we tend to meet lots of Mandarin-speaking guests at our events. We try referring them to the Mandarin Service at Milsons Point, but we need helpers who can speak Mandarin first! If you speak Mandarin we would love your help when we run these community events. Please let us know!

In recent past we have been averaging about 50 at service each Sunday. We have had newcomers coming through meeting our red-shirt welcomers at street level (after seeing our giant red sign!). Others joined after having attended our market stall or event, and others still heard about Redeemer through social media or friends/family.

One challenge we share with some of CCC's English services is we haven't had a pastor for over a year now. We do miss Rev Tokura's leadership and pastoral care. Having said that we are thankful to see members actively responding to meet the challenge. We have something like 80% of members doing all the work, which is a sign of our members' commitment and unity. Nonetheless, we do continue to pray for a pastor who will passionately lead us towards reaching Chatswood for Christ.

We look forward to sharing more about what's going on at Redeemer with you, perhaps in person at your service (or ours!) sometime :)

Blessings,

Redeemer Leadership Team (Aaron, Adrian, Isaac, Nick)

The Budget 2019

by Elder Sammy Liu

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The Board of Elders would like to thank all church members who have contributed financially to the various church funds over the year. We are very thankful to God for His provisions and that CCC has continued to be financially strong.



Financial key highlights:

- The General Fund has achieved a surplus of \$108k in 2018 and is mainly driven by strong giving from our members and lower than expected expenses as we continue trying to hire pastors to join our pastoral team and careful management of expenses in general.
- The Mission Fund had a deficit of \$41k in 2018 and is mainly driven by weaker than expected giving while expenses are broadly as expected.
- The School Building Fund had experienced stronger giving during 2018 compared to 2017 and some of these funds have been spent on stabilising the rear cliff face and retaining wall and to address the Emergency Order of the North Sydney Council.
- The 1C2L fund had a small amount of giving during 2018 but the income is slightly negative because a member has requested for some funds to be redirected to the mission fund. The 1C2L expenses were spent on the Byfield due diligence process and we are thankful to the Bible Society for reimbursing CCC for almost half of our costs.

Treasury initiatives over the past 3 years

The financial management of the church is important and therefore the reporting of financial information and the checks and balances in the process needs continual improvement to maintain the integrity of the process and the information it provides to the Board of Elders in order to make informed decisions.

Our church had up to 8 pastors/ministers and up to 3 church office staff members so the payroll and human resources function also needs to be robust to ensure firstly our church meets all regulations in relation to having staff and secondly to ensure all entitlements are clearly recorded and provided for our pastoral team and church administrators.

2019 Budget

The following table summarises the 2019 budget and the **2018** actuals for the General and Mission funds.

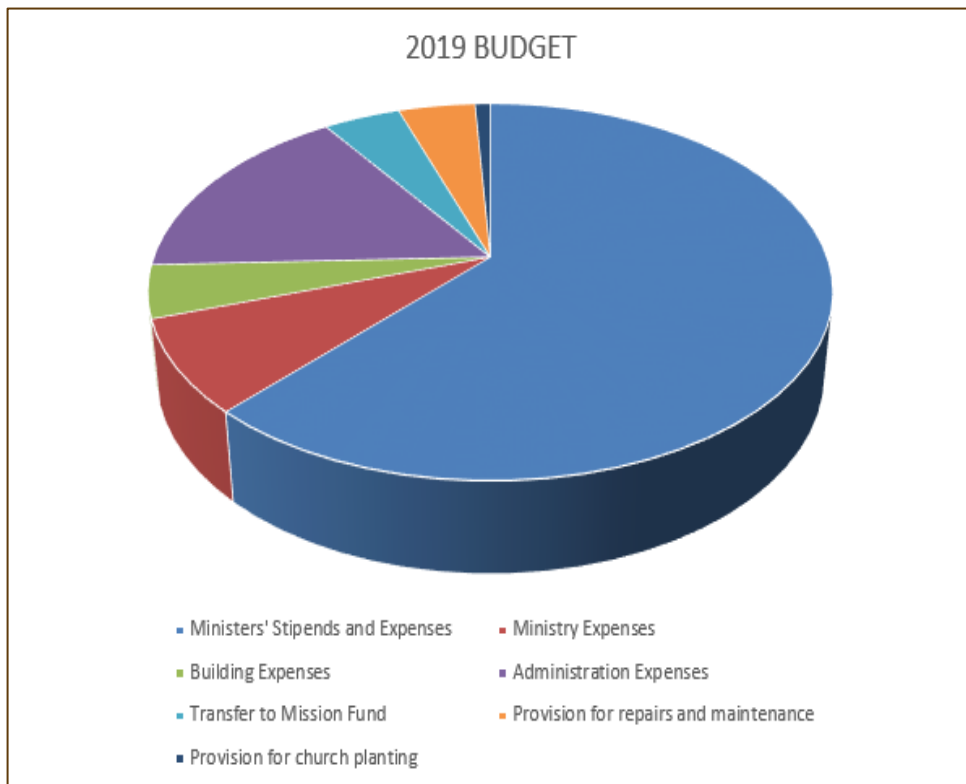
General Budget

	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Variance
Income			
Weekly Offertory	927,733	962,079	34,346
Other Income	143,717	62,136	(81,581)
Total Income	1,071,450	1,024,215	(47,235)
Expenses			
Ministers' Stipends and Expenses	(527,648)	(714,408)	(186,761)
Ministry Expenses	(50,383)	(91,696)	(41,313)
Building Expenses	(118,655)	(52,239)	66,416
Administration Expenses	(176,921)	(186,388)	(9,467)
Transfer to Mission Fund	(30,000)	(50,000)	(20,000)
Provision for repairs and maintenance	(50,000)	(50,000)	0
Provision for church planting	(10,000)	(10,000)	0
Total Expenses	(963,607)	(1,154,731)	(191,124)
TOTAL SURPLUS	107,843	(130,516)	(238,359)

General Fund Budget Highlights:

- Total budgeted income have been assumed to be fairly similar with 2018 actuals. Other income includes interest from term deposits and one-off offertory or donations.
- Total budgeted expenses are higher compared to 2018 actuals for the following reasons:
 - Minister stipends and salaries have been adjusted upwards to better align to the increasing cost of living with reference to other denominations.
 - We are currently looking for up to an additional 4 pastors/ministers so the total budgeted stipends will be conservative compared to what we will actually will pay in 2019 depending on how quickly we have the pastors/ministers on board.
 - Planned building expenses are for critical fixes and general maintenance only and do not include any non-critical repairs or upgrades.

- The church office now has 1 full time church administrator and 2 part time church administrator assistants to perform the normal office functions as well as assisting in the church finances and various projects and initiatives.
- The transfer to mission fund has been increased to \$50k
- The provision for repairs and maintenance and church planting has been maintained. As a result of the spire repairs back in 2017 and our knowledge of some of the building repairs and maintenance needs, we have started to set aside \$50k each year as a provision in the General Fund to anticipate further work that needs to be performed. A maintenance team is currently looking into a comprehensive list of repairs and potential upgrades in the church and more information about this will be provided over the coming months.
- The 2019 budget is projected to have a deficit of \$130k but in reality, this will largely depend on how quickly we can hire the pastors/ministers but it does highlight in the medium to longer term when we have a full pastoral team, the church needs to increase the overall level of giving to support the level of expenses that are expecting to be incur.



Mission Budget

	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	Variance
Income			
Mission Offertory	45,955	52,500	6,545
Transfer from General Fund	30,000	50,000	20,000
Other Mission Income	41,697	13,504	(28,193)
Total Income	117,652	116,004	(1,648)
Expenses			
Mission Expenses	(158,998)	(168,000)	(9,002)
Total Expenses	(158,998)	(168,000)	(9,002)
TOTAL SURPLUS	(41,346)	(51,996)	(10,650)

Mission Fund Budget Highlights:

- Total budgeted income have been assumed to be fairly similar with 2018 actuals. Other mission income includes interest from term deposits and one-off offertory or donations.
- Total budgeted expenses are broadly similar to 2018 actuals.
- The 2019 budget is projected to have a \$52k deficit which is slight higher compared to 2018 actuals due to the higher budgeted expenses. In the short term, the deficit can be absorbed by the cash reserves of the mission fund but the current level of giving is not sustainable over the longer term so we ask that members prayerfully consider supporting the mission fund financially.