

100th Anniversary of the Punchbowl Church

Congregational – 1914; Methodist – 1915:

Presbyterian - 1949; Uniting – 1977.

Souvenir and Historical Record Issued to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the first Church at the Broadway site on 6th February, 1915.

Saturday, 7th February, 2015.



Dedication ...

This souvenir Brochure is dedicated to the glory of God, and to the memory of the pioneers, and those who followed them, who laboured faithfully and well to give us the Christian heritage we now enjoy, and whose labours and sacrifices have inspired us to fittingly commemorate the Centenary of the Punchbowl Church.

Acknowledgements ...

The publication of this Souvenir Brochure has been made possible by the use of the interesting and informative historical details compiled by the late Mr. J. E. Beswick, carefully preserved and augmented by the late Mr. H. E. Kothe, and by additional editorial work by the late Mr. W. A. Cant.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have given technical assistance in the preparation of this brochure and to those who have made information and photographs available.

We are indebted to the Centenary Arrangement Committee – Mr. & Mrs. R.Button, Mr. J.Evans, Miss J.Hastie, Mrs P.Patterson and Mrs P.Waters, for the planning and preparations to ensure the success of the celebrations.

CENTENARY PROGRAMME

Saturday, 7th February, 2015.

10:30 am Centenary Anniversary Service

Minister: Rev J. Kim

Guest Preacher: Rev J.J.E.Weston.

Organist: Mr. P.Cant.

Prayer of Intercession & Thanksgiving: Rev G.Lawrence

Bible Readings: Rev Dr L.Hewitt; Rev G.Olsen.

12 noon Luncheon in Church Hall

Display of photos; Slide Show and memorabilia.
Fellowship.

An Historical Survey . . .

Church Site: In a span of a hundred years many changes are clearly evident and much eventful history has been written.

In 1915 Punchbowl boasted one shop; a hurricane lamp was needed to light the path to evening worship, there being no bitumen roads; the railway station was lit by kerosene lamps; steam trains ran an hourly service for a population within the bounds of the present Punchbowl Circuit of less than 1,000 people.

Two world wars and a serious economic depression have left a legacy of memories and a triumph over difficulties which have given us a rich heritage of Christian worship and service.

Church Site: With clear determination, in December, 1913, The Rev. J. G. M. Taylor (then General Home Mission Secretary), with the Rev. C. J. MacAulay (Superintendent of Lakemba Circuit), chose a commanding site, with a frontage of 100 feet to the Broadway, on which a Methodist church could be built.

The first Church: Early in 1914 a committee was formed by Rev. C. J. MacAulay to consider “ways and means”. Miss H. Carden might often have been seen driving her white pony along the bush tracks, calling upon her friends for monthly subscriptions. During that year services on Sunday afternoons were held in the homes of the people, among who were Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Mackin, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Truscott and Mr. Sidway.



The first church 1915-1918

In January 1915, it was arranged to erect a small wooden building to seat 100 persons, at a cost of £275. This was built in sections to facilitate a later removal to another site if required. On Saturday, 6th February, at 3 p.m. the opening ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Frederick Colwell (President of the Conference), who preached to a crowded congregation. On the following Sunday the Rev. C. L. Connor conducted divine worship, and in the afternoon the first Sunday School gathering was held, Mr. W. J. Hawkes having been appointed the Superintendent. The friends were not without difficulties incidental to beginnings, but willing helpers were forthcoming. Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Kinsey kindly loaned their organ for 18 months, in order to help the service of praise in the sanctuary. Again the trustees of Moorfields Church permitted the use of their oil lamps, for at that time only afternoon worship was held there. About this time there was added to the Lakemba Circuit Plan the suspiciously sounding name of 'Punchbowl'. During the next three years (portion of World War 1) considerable progress was made. A Sunday morning service started within six months, the Sunday School had so increased in two years as to overflow onto the verandah of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Weiss. An organ had been purchased, and the electric light installed, and further, by voluntary labour a porch was built onto the front of the little church, and the whole of the ground enclosed with 6 feet fencing.

The Second Church: During the early part of 1918 it became evident that something would have to be done to provide more accommodation for the young people. The question was, "Should it

be in the form of a 'lean-to' at the rear of the present building?" No! With daring faith, aided by the inspiring leadership of the Rev. R. H. Campbell, who had just entered upon the Superintendency of the Lakemba Church, the trustees decided to build a brick church 45 ft. by 30 ft. with seating for a congregation of 200 – 250. (The word "church" was loosely applied, as it was hoped, even if faith were dim, for a nobler structure in the future, so it was mostly called "School Hall".) This building was erected for £789. The foundation stone was laid on Saturday, 19th October, 1918, by the Rev. James Green, C.M.G. (President of the Conference). The foundation stone would later be moved and placed in the porch of current church hall. Mr. Green also officially opened the building on Saturday, 21st December, and preached to a full church. On the following Sunday three services were held, conducted by Revs. Harold Wheen, G.Laverty and A.E. Townsend. The financial result of the opening effort amounted to £42. Shortly after this the little sectional church was purchased by the Cronulla Circuit for £230, taken down, and re-erected at Caringbah.



The second church 1918-1936, referred to as The School Hall

Kindergarten Hall & Vestries: Three years later began the third building effort. A “financial drive” lasting eight weeks, in the Spring of 1921, produced £146. A second “drive” in 1922 brought in £90 (being half the results of the 1921 Bazaar), making a total of £279. The trustees emboldened by such results, entered upon the task of building a Kindergarten Hall in brick, 30 ft. by 24 ft., and adding two vestries to the rear of the School Hall. These were officially opened on Saturday, 1st July, 1922, by the Rev. W.W.Roger (then Director of Y.P.D.). The total cost of the building was £656.

The following year (1923) two blocks of land at the rear of the church property, and facing Matthew Street, were purchased at €180 per block.

From now on the work went steadily forward; congregation, Sunday School and membership, increasing, and by 1927 it was found necessary to erect a second Kindergarten hall.

The Second Kindergarten Hall: The Rev. W. T. Dyer had just come to the Circuit and, under his initiative and inspiration, a large force of voluntary workers, led by Mr. H.G. Smith, were ready to attempt to “build a hall in a day” (the brick piers having been previously erected). From plans prepared by Master Colin Smith (the boy architect), there was erected on Saturday, 27th August, 1927, on newly-acquired land, a



timber and asbestos hall, 35 ft by 24 ft. A verandah 35 ft by 9 ft was added later. By evening the walls were up and the iron roof on and things generally sufficiently advanced to hold a short combined dedication and baptismal service, when the son of the Kindergarten Superintendent (Mrs. Leigh) received the Sacrament of Baptism. The older Kindergarten Hall was renamed "The Institute". It was now felt that we were well-equipped with accommodation for carrying on the spiritual work of Methodism in Punchbowl.

The next three or four years were strenuous and happy years of toil. Then the depression came, with all the stress of unemployment and strain of straitened finance, making heavy demands upon the faith, hope and courage of the officials.

Scarcely had they recovered from the depression when the trustees were faced with new and unforeseen problems, for cracks began to appear in the walls of the School Hall (Church). For a time it was hoped that the damage might be overcome by "underpinning", but a professional examination and a study of the subsoil led to the conclusion that it would be unsafe to continue to use the building, and uneconomic to attempt its restoration. Consequently, under instructions from the Home Mission Executive, the building was closed, the final service being held on Sunday, 26th July, 1936. For the next few months all services and Sunday School gatherings were held in the Kindergarten Hall and Institute.

New Church and School Hall: Long did the trustees deliberate on the problem presented. With marvelous patience The Rev. W. C. Fullerton (Superintendent of the Circuit) piloted the business through no less than forty-eight trustees' meetings. Finally, with perfect unanimity, it was decided to demolish the School Hall and the Institute (both of which were affected by the shifting nature of the sub-soil), and with the generous assistance of the Connexional authorities, to erect a complete suite of premises, consisting of Church, School Hall, three vestries and a kitchen.



Plans were prepared by Mr. Colin Smith, A.A.S.T.C., A.R.A.I.A., entirely free of cost, and by the beginning of 1937 the ground had been cleared and excavations made eight feet deep to receive the solid concrete foundations. The successful tenderer was Mr. W.R.Snell, one of the members and a trustee. The cost of the whole scheme, including furnishings, was £3,100.

The present church is a brick structure of pleasing design, with a dwarfed tower, and tiled roof throughout. The seating provides for approximately 300 persons. There are two transepts, with a centre aisle, and a paneled sanctuary raised above the normal floor level. The School Hall is also of attractive design, built at right angles to, and communicating with, the church.

April 10, 1937 was a glorious sunny day, and a large assemblage met in the afternoon for the double ceremony of laying the “Foundation Stone” of the Church, and the opening of the new School Hall. Additionally the “Foundation Stone” of the second church was placed in the porch of the new school hall.

Supporting the Rev. W. C. Fullerton were the President of the Conference (Rev. Wallace Deane, M.A., B.D.), Rev. H. S. Bowden (Chairman of the 2nd Sydney District), Rev. R. H. Campbell (H. M. Secretary), Rev. John H. A. Sorrell, M.M. (Director of Y.P.D.), Rev. L. Peacock (a former Superintendent of the Circuit), the local clergy of other denominations, and Mr. F. Stanley, M. L. A.

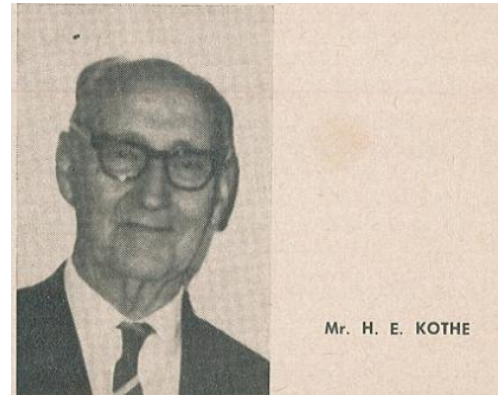
After the President had spoken words of encouragement and congratulations, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed by Mr. J.E. Berwick, the oldest trustee, who recalled the opening of the first little building twenty-two years before, and, in the light of all that had passed, exclaimed ‘What hath God wrought?’

*Laying of
Foundation
Stone of present
church by Mr J.
E. Berwick*



As an indication of the changing character of suburban populations, it was discovered that only five persons were present that afternoon who had attended the opening of the first church in 1915.

Immediately following this ceremony, adjournment was made to the arched vestibule of the School Hall. There Mr. H. E. Kothe (former Superintendent of the Sunday School) briefly reviewed the history of the School. Mrs. W. C.



Fullerton presented a key to Mr. Kothe, who performed the opening ceremony. A joyous and crowded audience took part in a dedication service, led by Rev. W. C. Fullerton. The address was delivered by the Rev. John H.A. Sorrell, M.M.

After a twice-crowded Tea, the School Hall was again filled for a Public Meeting, presided over by the circuit minister, who was supported by the Rev. N. C. Bradshaw (Bankstown) and the Rev. F. Jones (C. of E.).

After the completion of the church building the crowd assembled again on Saturday, 19th June, 1937, but this time not in glorious sunshine, but torrential rain. The friends were admitted by a side door and stood facing the front of the church.

Mr. E. W. Kinsey (the second oldest of the foundation trustees), in a few well chosen words, welcomed the Rev. W. H. Jones (General H.M. Secretary) and presented the front-door key. Mr. Jones, who

had shown unstinted sympathy, and by his counsel had greatly helped the trustees, spoke words of congratulations. The “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” Mr. Jones declared the building open for the worship of God, and unlocked the Main Entrance door from the inside (surely a unique ceremony).

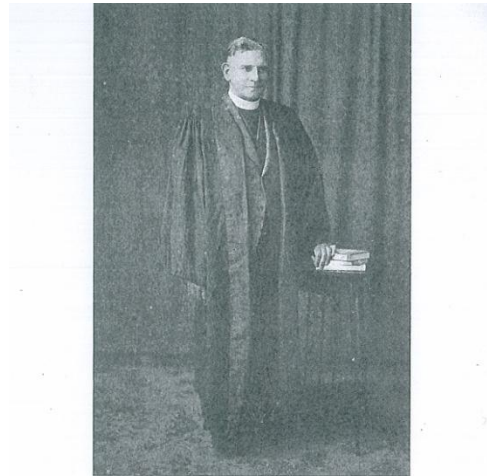
Before the service began, the Rev. W. C. Fullerton, on behalf of the trustees, presented to the hon. architect , Mr. Colin Smith (formerly of the Sunday School scholars) a chiming clock, suitably inscribed, as a memento of the occasion, a small acknowledgement of his kindness in planning and supervising the work throughout.

The Rev. W. C. Fullerton then conducted the dedicatory service, the sermon preached by the Rev. Wallace Deane, M.A., B.D. (President of the Conference). A largely attended Tea and Public Meeting followed, at which the special speaker was Rev. P. L. Black (Secretary of the Conference). On the following Sunday, services were conducted by the Rev. H. S. Bowden (Chairman of the District) and the Rev. L. E. Bennett, M.A., B.D. (Master of Wesley College). Although the weather was cold and very wet, the spirit of the people was in no way dampened.

The enthusiastic and detailed labours of Mr. R. Lewis (Secretary of the Trust) and Mr. H.E.Kothe (Treasurer of the Trust) were gratefully acknowledged.

25th Anniversary Celebrations: This historic milestone in the history of the Punchbowl Church was reached in 1940, and was fittingly celebrated with special services and gatherings. On Saturday, 15th

June, the Inaugural Banquet was attended by about 200 people including many from distant places. A Great Re-union Fellowship followed the Banquet, where items by the choir, community singing and personal testimonies were special features.



Rev. V. A. SPENCE LITTLE, M.A., B.Litt, D.Phil. (Oxon.)
Present Minister.

*Rev. V. A. Spence Little, M.A., B.Litt, D.Phil (Oxon);
Minister 1939-1943.*

A Souvenir of Silver Jubilee Anniversary Booklet was issued to mark the occasion.

On Sunday, 16th June, the services were conducted by the President of Conference, Rev. P. L. Black, at 11 am., and by two former ministers of the circuit – Rev. W. C. Fullerton at 3 pm. and by Rev. A. Collins at 7 :15 pm.

The attendance at the Annual Public Meeting on Tuesday, 18th June, was affected somewhat by rain, but the tone of the meeting was excellent. The special speaker was the Rev. R. H. Campbell, General Secretary of Home Missions. Musical items by the choir with greetings and messages of congratulations added to the inspiration of the occasion.

The young people made their special contribution to the celebrations with a dramatic presentation on Saturday, 22nd June of John Bunyan's "Courteous Companions" before a capacity audience in the School Hall.

The final services were held on Sunday, 23rd June, when former ministers occupied the pulpit – Rev. C. L. Connor at 11 am and Rev. W. T. Dyer at 7:15 pm. The church was crowded on each occasion to hear challenging messages from the visiting preachers.

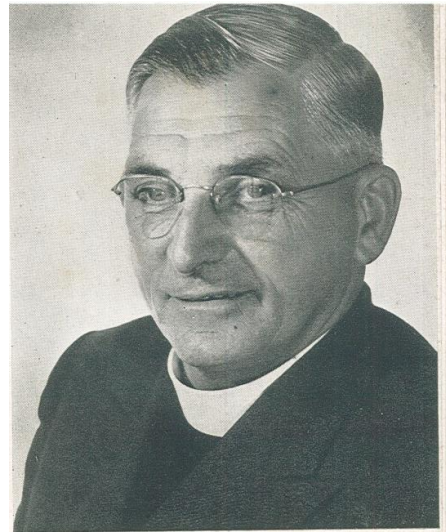
The financial result of the Silver Jubilee was approximately £50 was encouraging, and the response to the Trust Appeal for loans to offset the heavy interest was gratifying.

The completion of the new church in 1937 meant the carrying of a debt which called forth a strenuous and continuing effort on the part of the people. In this the ladies carried a large share. Eventually, after much hard work and sacrificial giving at the 36th Church Anniversary in May, 1951, special thanksgiving was given on the liquidation of the debt.

As a memorial to those who served in World War II, 1939-45, the stained glass window in the sanctuary was unveiled in May, 1948.

In 1956 extensions were made to the kitchen, which had provided excellent facilities for catering and social activities. The church heating was installed in 1958 and the Church fans were provided in 1975.

The fine property has been carefully maintained down through the years under the supervision of the Trust and in recent years by the Property Committee. As resources allow, further improvements and additions will be made.



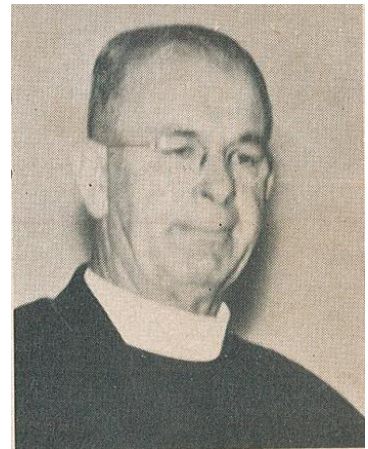
Rev H.T. Williams 1954-1959

The Pipe Organ: The music in the sanctuary has been enriched by the contribution of those who have led the worship on the organs that have been installed in the church. The generous help of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Kinsey, in the loan of their organ when the first church opened, marked the beginning of the progression to the present instrument. An organ was purchased after a year or so for the first church, and was followed by larger instruments until in November, 1938, a two manual “Estey” was installed. This gave splendid service for 24 years until it was felt that the maintenance cost was becoming rather excessive. Following enquiries and inspections of pipe organs it was decided in September 1960, to install a four-rank pipe organ, and an Organ Fund was opened in October, 1960. Mr. J. P. Eagles, of Cheltenham, undertook the work and the organ was dedicated on 19th August, 1962, by the Rev. A. J. Dempsey. The response to the appeal for support of the Organ Fund was very gratifying, enabling the repayment to be completed in less than three years. The cost was £2,945. The organ has added much to the inspiration of the services.

The Organ Room: In 1981, in the area behind the Pipe Organ Chamber, a double brick insulated Room was constructed to house the organ mechanism, some of which was originally located under the Minister's Vestry where dampness was affecting the organ. The cost (\$3,186) was met from the Brough Memorial Fund.

The Golden Jubilee (50th) Anniversary: Special celebrations were held over two week-ends to observe this occasion.

On Saturday, 6th February, 1965 the Jubilee Reunion Buffet Tea was held at 6 pm. At 7:30 pm there was an Official Switching on and Dedication of the new Exterior Lighting. This comprised the illuminated Cross on the tower, the new illuminated Notice Board and the exterior lighting.



Sunday, 7th February – Preachers: Rev. N. G. Pardy and Rev. P. H. Bolte.

Rev P.H.Bolte 1964-65

The Jubilee Brotherhood Meeting was held during the afternoon.

Sunday, 14th February – Preachers: Rev. S. M. Barrett and Rev. F. N. Biddle. A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon was held at 2:30 pm, and Jubilee Fellowship Tea at 5:00 pm.

Special Choral Music was presented by the Church Choir at all the Services. A Golden Jubilee Souvenir Brochure was issued covering the fifty years' history – 1915 to 1965.

Church Amplifying System: The Couples' Club, during the 1960's generously provided an Amplifying System in the church which served very well. In 1977 an updated system was installed, and the previous equipment was set up in the Church Hall. The Brough Memorial Fund provided the cost of the system - \$1,400. In June, 1994 a Radio Lapel Microphone was provided to assist the preacher. The microphone is compatible with the amplifying system, and has been much appreciated by members of the congregation who have hearing difficulties.

The Conference Room and Toilet Areas: Following closure of South Punchbowl (Karne Street) Church late in 1970, an extension was made in 1973 to commemorate the transfer of the South Punchbowl congregation to Punchbowl. It comprised a passageway behind the kitchen and a Conference Room and modern toilet facilities.

The Organisations ...

The Sunday School: From a brave beginning on 7th February, 1915, the School grew to occupy a very prominent place in the work of the church. Countless number of young people passed through its ranks, many of whom have found an active place in the life of the church, while others have carried away impressions and influences that have been a stay and strength in later years.



At the end of the first year there were eight teachers and 50 scholars enrolled. A record attendance was established on 11th October, 1931, when 278 scholars and 47 teachers were present out of an enrolment of 402 scholars and 48 teachers. The 1940 enrolment was 50 teachers and 304 scholars. In 1965 the enrolment was 188 scholars and 42 teachers with four departments operating.



Boys and girls line up for the 1964 Sunday School Anniversary.

The stage 1964 Sunday School Anniversary



Although the school gained a small number of scholars on the closure of South Punchbowl (Karne Street) at the end of 1970, a decline had begun which brought the closure of the Sunday School in December, 1989. In recent years a Sunday School class has been held with students leaving the church service after the Children's Address.

Through the capable and devoted leadership of the various Superintendents and the faithful work of a host of teachers, the claims of Christ have been presented down through the years with spiritual benefit to the children.

Christian Endeavour: Began in 1917 the C.E. movement was a spiritual force in our church. In its early stages the zeal and initiative of Messers. H. G. Smith and R. Fyfe led many young people into personal relationship with Christ and opened avenues of Christian service. Quite a number of them, who were eventually called into



Section of the South Punchbowl Sunday School.



PUNCHBOWL METHODIST JUNIOR C.E. — 1918
 Back row: (l. to r.): Robert Wise, Hilton Smith, Annie Stevens, Norman Campbell, Colin Smith.
 Second row: Mr. H. G. Smith (Supt.), Valerie Cruickshank, Alice Brown, Daphne Morris, Eunice Davidson, Mary Stevens.
 Third row: Marjorie Morris, Amy Rosen, Lucy Rosen, Eaulie Cruickshank, Marlon Warren, Millie Stevens, Jessie Brown.
 Front row: Wallace Hendy, William Weiss, Ken Smith, Gordon Hendy.

the ministry and into the ranks of local preachers, testify to the part played by the C.E. The movement operated in Young Peoples, Intermediate and Junior Societies very successfully until the late 1960s.

Ladies Church Aid Society (J.W.O., U.C. Women's Fellowship and currently Broadway Fellowship) established in 1919 and has continued ever since. It has given unstinted help to the Circuit and Parish, and for many outside enterprises during its years of splendid service.

The bus trips organised by Mrs. Meg Torr and then for over thirty years, by Mr & Mrs Button, provided many years of fellowship and raised much needed funds.

Methodist Girls' Comradeship and Methodist Order of Knights: Founded jointly in May, 1923, these two official youth groups gave their members a vision of youth dedicated to Christ. Ministers, local preachers, teachers and church leaders came from groups which operated until the early 1970s.

The Men's Brotherhood began in 1929 and served the men of the Church and Parish until the end of 1986.

The following organizations also operated at various times during the 100 years period – Cricket Club, Football (Soccer)



Club, Rugby Club, Physical Culture Club, Men's Club, Mission Band, Prayer, Bible Study and Fellowship Groups, Women's Auxiliary to Overseas Missions, Church Choir, Mothers' Club, Friendship Club, Methodist Rays (Junior Girls) & Comrades, Methodist Order of Knights (boys), Youth Fellowship, Couples' Club, Cell Groups (Youth), Senior & Junior Youth Groups, Family Theatre, Wednesday Club (Youth), Senior Peoples' Luncheon, All Age Fellowship, Home Friendship Groups, Playgroup.



Cricket Team, 1949-50. Premiers



Soccer team - Premiers, 1969. Punchbowl Park.

The Ministry: The following entered the Methodist Ministry from Punchbowl – Revs. L. D. Fullerton, F. A. S. Kemp, J. Atkinson, G. J. McSkimming, G. M. D. Ellis, J. J. E. Weston.

Missionary Outreach: The call to service on the mission field did not go unheeded. The Silver Jubilee Souvenir records “Four young missionaries have been, or are, now labouring among those of

another race, viz : Nurse H. Muir, (Papua); Miss Zillah Walsh, (Sudan); Mr. T. Kingsmill, (U. Abo. Mission); Mr. Bruce Kingsmill, (Solomon Islands and Melbourne City Mission).”

The Golden Jubilee records “We honour the work of Revs. L. D. Fullerton, F. A. S. Kemp, J. Atkinson and Mrs. R. Waldron (Iris Atkinson), while on the home front Revs. Gordon McSkimming and Graham Ellis served in country and city circuits.”

In recent years Mrs. Rosslyn Shields has served in Kyrgyzstan and Ms. Suzanne Allibone in Phnom Penh.

CIRCUITS, PARISHES, MINISTERS & ASSISTANTS.

Lakemba Circuit (Methodist)

Rev. Claude L. Connor	1915
Rev. Giles T. Moore	1916
Rev. Albert E. Townsend	1917
Rev. Ronald H. Campbell	1918 - 1922
Rev. Walter T. Cross	1921 - 1923
Rev. Leonard Peacock	1923

Punchbowl-Bankstown Circuit (Methodist) from 1924.

Rev. J. Ward Harrison	1924-1927
Rev. William T. Dyer	1927-1931
Rev. Archibald Collins	1931-1934

Punchbowl Circuit (Methodist) from 1936

Rev. William C. Fullerton	1934-1939
Rev. Dr. V. A. Spence Little	1939-1943

Rev. William W. Roger	1943-1945
Rev. T. K. Fardon Taylor	1945-1949
Rev. Frank N. Biddle	1949-1954
Rev. Henry T. Williams	1954-1959
Deaconess Ruby Sloan	1957-1958
Circuit Assistant Jim H. Douglas	1958
Student Max E. Kelly (President's Supply)	1959-1960
Rev. Albert J. Dempsey	1960-1963
Circuit Assistant Robert B. McSwan	1961
Circuit Assistant Gareth H. Clayton	1962
Student Pastor Alan M. Langstaff	1963-1967
Rev. Philip H. Bolte	1964-1965
Rev. Peter D. Stephens	1965
Rev. Jack A. Willson	1966-1969
Student Pastor Terence J. Oades	1968
Student Pastor John N. Hooper	1969
Rev. Michael G. Hall	1970-1971
Student Pastor Arthur G. Pearce	1970-1971

Congregational – 1914

Punchbowl Congregational Church – opened 24th October 1914.



The church at Punchbowl originated as a Sunday School class in the home of a Mr. Dingaldei early in 1913. News of this class soon spread to the neighbouring Congregational Churches at Lakemba and Bankstown and as a result a meeting on the 11th May, 1914 resolved to commence the construction of a building in Punchbowl. The entire outlay including the cost of the site and building was estimated at \$500. A Mr. McIntyre of Lakemba Circuit acted as Supervisor of Construction. The foundations of the building were laid in August 1914 and it was completed shortly afterwards. The size of the structure was 24 ft. by 18 ft.

The church was officially opened on 24th October, 1914 by Alderman A. Preston, Mayor of Canterbury. Following the ceremony, the initial service was conducted by Rev. A. J. Griffith M.A. of Lakemba and Rev. W. L. Patison, Home Mission Superintendent.

Worship was conducted in these early days by Rev. A. J. Griffith assisted by Messers. P.C. Williams, F.J. Andrew and Carruthers. In 1917 the church came under the oversight of Rev. George Dunkley of Bankstown. There were fifteen members in the first fellowship.

A joint pastorate with Hurlstone Park Church under the ministry of Rev. S. Bennett operated between 1920 and 1928. As a result of Mr. Bennett's pastoral visitation during these years the church grew in numbers. The 1928 Union Year Book shows that the Sunday School had an enrolment of 200 scholars.

From 1928 until the end of 1960 the church was worked as a joint pastorate with the Bankstown Church. Ministries during this period included Rev. H. M. Riley (1929-1935), Rev. T. B. Roseby, (1936-1940); Mr. Ray Marsden Student, (1940-1945); Mr. Gordon Branson Student, (1945-1951); Rev S. Clague, (1952-1957); Rev. M. Hutton, (1958-1959); Mr. Alan Sheppard, Student, (1959-1960). Messers. Marsden and Branson were both ordained to the Christian Ministry whilst in the pastorate. From 1961 until 1966 Mr. Bruce Yates of the Revesby Church conducted a lay pastorate at Punchbowl during which time he maintained a fruitful ministry among the people. From 1966 the church was without pastoral oversight, but because of the faithful service of men and women of the fellowship, the witness was maintained. During the period a most useful ministry was rendered by a team of lay preachers from surrounding churches of all denominations who conducted the Sunday Services.

In November 1971, a Joint Parish arrangement was established with the Punchbowl Methodist Church. The final worship service was held in the Congregational Church on the last Sunday in October 1971 and since that time all worship and activities have been conducted in the Punchbowl and Greenacre Methodist properties. The Congregational property was sold during 1972.



Punchbowl Congs Soccer Team – circa 1947.

Presbyterian – 1940

Opened 12th March, 1949.



Punchbowl Presbyterian Church – March 1958.

The young man on the right is Les Hewitt.

The Punchbowl Charge was initiated in March, 1940 by the Rev. S. A. Eastman who was then Minister of Lakemba. The work remained under the Minister of Lakemba, Rev. S. T. Knight, after Mr. Eastman's removal to another Charge. On 30th June, 1940 the first Committee of Management was formed consisting of Messers D. M. Cameron, A. J. Miller, G. E. Tarrant (Secretary), N. E. Calman, R. L. Edgar, A. Hogg and R. B. Smith (Treasurer). A Sunday School was started about this time with Miss I. Paterson (later Mrs. Dean) in charge. Mrs. Dean was also organist for several years, using a fine organ presented by Miss Cruikshank, sister of Rev. R. G. Cruikshank. There was a very active Women's Guild and also a Fellowship Association.

The first services were held in a shop at 54 Highclere Avenue. In March, 1941 a removal to the Soldier's Hall took place but in April 1945 the congregation went back to the old address where they carried on pending the completion of the church. A site was bought in Catherine Street, but it was felt that it was not sufficiently central and in September 1943 the Home Mission Committee purchased a site in Punchbowl Road. A building fund was started in 1943 and plans were prepared by Mr. Jaundrel. It was found necessary, however, to abandon this proposal and revised plans were prepared by Mr. G. B. Gray. The foundation stone of the building was laid by the Moderator, the Right Rev. A. M. Stevenson, on Saturday, 12th March, 1949 and it was opened and dedicated on 3rd September of the same year by the Moderator the Right Rev. D. J. Flockhart. The builder was Mr. G. Dryden of Blacktown. The membership was 42.

A small number of Presbyterians joined Punchbowl Uniting Church in 1977. Punchbowl Presbyterian Church closed about this time.

The Ministry: John Campbell and Les Hewitt entered the Presbyterian Ministry from Punchbowl Presbyterian.

At the age of 17 John went from Homebush Boys High School straight to Sydney University. John was the youngest ever to be ordained which occurred in 1960. He passed away on 6th June 2011.

Les was ordained on 28th April 1969. In his retirement Les is in high demand for Casual Supply Ministry. We were fortunate to have Les with us from December 2008 to March 2009 to cover Long Service Leave.



Rev John Cambell and Rev Dr Les Hewitt- taken 2006.

The Joint Parish: In November, 1971 the Punchbowl Congregational Church closed its activities and joined the Punchbowl Methodist Circuit to form the “Methodist/Congregational Joint Parish of Punchbowl” which was officially inaugurated on 1st January, 1972. The Punchbowl Congregation remained part of the Methodist/Congregational Joint Parish of Punchbowl/Greenacre.

The Congregational members entered fully into the work of the Joint Parish, and occupied many important positions during its duration.

The Punchbowl Church benefitted from the provision of the Congregational equipment – the Hammond Spinnet Electronic

Organ, the piano, the furniture in the Minister's Vestry and the hymn book cupboard.

The transition by the Joint Parish into the Uniting Church on 22nd June, 1977 was greatly helped by the co-operative spirit of the two denominations.

A small number of Presbyterian members joined our Uniting Church. During 2009 Rev. Dr. Les Hewitt, who spent his informative years at Punchbowl Presbyterian Church, returned as a Casual Supply Minister to cover long service leave.



Rev Dr Les Hewitt returns to Punchbowl for Casual Supply, Dec 2008 to March 2009.

Uniting Church – 1977

The formation of the Uniting Church in 1977, saw the name change to Punchbowl Uniting Church, as part of the Punchbowl /Greenacre Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia. This association with Greenacre continued until January 2001.

The combining of the churches proved successful with large congregations attending morning and evening services. During the 1980's attendance at both the morning and evening services were often over 60. A slow decline commenced in the 1990's and settled

at about 30 during the late 1990's. The last evening service was held on Sunday, 18th September, 1994.

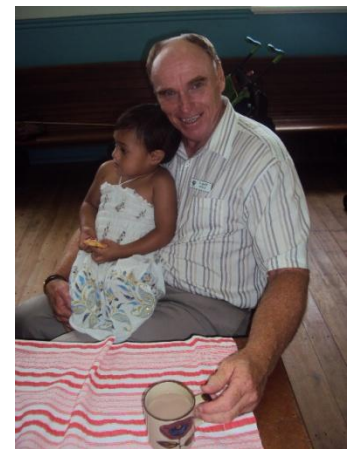
The formation of the Uniting Church resulted in clubs and groups being stimulated by the increase of members. Existing groups continued and over the years some new groups were formed.

The 80th Anniversary: Special Celebrations were held on Sunday, 5th September to observe this occasion.

An Anniversary Service was held at 10:30 am with Guest Preacher: Rev. Ken Cornwell, Moderator, NSW Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

A Basket Luncheon followed at 12:30 pm in the Church Hall. Greetings were received from the Moderator, Past Ministers and former members. Afternoon Tea and Fellowship followed. A display of photographs and memorabilia proved interesting. A Souvenir Brochure was issued covering the eighty years history – 1915 to 95.

A small congregation since 2000 has sought to reach out into the community. A Playgroup was formed under the leadership of Rev. Lawrence and proved successful. A Jewellery Class (Make & Take) was introduced by Mrs Sandra Lawrence and continues under the leadership of Mrs Heather Grimson.



Rev. G. Lawrence 2005-2014

Rev. Lawrence has tried to form friendships with the new Shopping Centre. Once a month morning tea, held after Sunday Service, has been in the Shopping Centre. An information stall is held at times in the Centre.

The Women's Fellowship had a name change to Broadway Fellowship with its main activity being two Senior Luncheons. These have been held for over fifty years and currently attended by up to 70 appreciative seniors. In 1962, Miss Del Layton, a teacher from Punchbowl Public School, brought students to entertain at the Christmas Senior Luncheon. This successful event has continued for over 50 years. Del is a long-time member of Greenacre Congregation.

The last meeting of the Friendship Club which met on Tuesday afternoons, was in March, 2014.

The Centenary Anniversary: The historic milestone in the history of the Punchbowl Church was reached in 2015 and was fittingly celebrated on Saturday, 7th February. A 10:30 am service was attended by about 170 people, including many from distant places and representing former Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian backgrounds. The service was conducted by the Rev Joon Kim. The message was given by Rev John Weston who spent his formative years at Punchbowl Methodist Church. Prayer of Intercession & Thanksgiving was led by Rev G.Lawrence, Minister, 2005-14.

Bible Readings were given by Rev Dr Les Hewitt who spent his formative years at Punchbowl Presbyterian Church and by Rev Graham Lawrence, Minister Punchbowl Uniting Church, 1987-92. Organist was Mr Phillip Cant who spent his formative years at Punchbowl and whose father was church organist for over sixty years.

There was memorable singing of

- for a thousand tongues to sing;
- Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder;
- Love divine;
- Guide me, O thou great Redeemer.

A luncheon and fellowship followed at 12 noon. A Powerpoint Slide Show, display of memorabilia and photos created much interest. A Souvenir Centenary Historic Booklet was issued covering the hundred years' history -1914 to 2015.



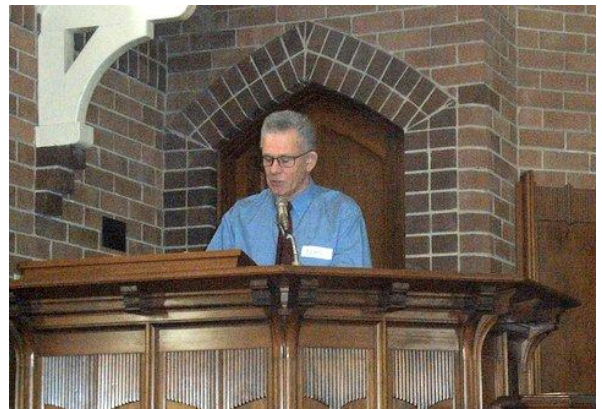
‘O for a thousand tongues to sing’.

Methodist/Congregational Joint Parish (from 1972)

Rev. Michael G. Hall	1972-1977
Probationer Arthur G. Pearce	1972
Rev. Laurence G. Fitzgerald	1973-1976

The Uniting Church in Australia (from 1977)

Rev. Michael G. Hall	1977-1979
Rev. Cyril L. Dixon	1977-1978
Rev. Alastair R. Bathgate	1979-1985
Rev. Ralph G. Lancaster	1980-1989
Rev. Graham J. Olsen	1987-1992
Rev. Frank McInnes (Supply Minister)	1993
Rev. Joan I. Mabon (Interim Minister)	1994
Rev. Margaret Joyce	1995-2000
Rev. Karamelu Le'aupepe	2000-2004
Rev. Dr. Jack Hely (Supply Minister)	2005
Rev. Graham P. Lawrence	2005-2014
Rev Dr. L. Hewitt (Supply Minister)	2009
Rev Joon Kyeung Kim (Supply Minister)	2014-2015.





‘Guide me, O thou great Redeemer’.

CHURCH OFFICIALS, LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Church Elder: Miss June Hastie.

Church Stewards: Mr. John Evans; Mrs. Dian Rickards; Mrs. Pam Waters.

Communion Stewards: Mrs. Dian Rickards; Mrs. Pam Waters.

Church Property: Mr. Ron Button (Chairman); Miss June Hastie (Sec); Mr. John Evans.

Organists: Mrs. Norma Button; Mrs. Dian Rickards.

Meeting of the Congregation: Chairperson: Mrs. Heather Grimson; Secretary: Mrs. Dian Rickards; Treasurer: Mr. John Evans.

Broadway Fellowship: Mrs. Norma Button (Sec); Mr. John Evans (Treasurer); Mrs. Pam Waters.

Jewellery Group Mrs. Heather Grimson.

Playgroup: Mrs. D. Rickards; Miss. June Hastie; Mrs. Heather Grimson.

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- Congregational Union of NSW; Year Book, 1977, Special Edition.
- The Challenge of the Years, A History of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW; Rev C.A. White B.A.; 1951.
- 80th Anniversary of the Punchbowl Church; 1995.
- Uniting Church Historical Society, North Parramatta.

Acknowledgements

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