

Dear All

I know I haven't done one of these in a while, and this will most probably be my last one. If you are reading this for the first time, past copies of Pastor Connect are available on the MCC Sydney website. I have really enjoyed writing them and receiving your feedback.

As most of you would be aware by now, I finish up here at MCC Sydney on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. My last official service will be on the 31<sup>st</sup> at the 10am service.

I have been working hard with the Church Life Council and the board to ensure that services will continue to run after I have left and I have great confidence that MCC Sydney will continue to offer worship services that teach, nurture and inspire. A big thankyou has to go to all those who have volunteered to help where it is needed. The CLC is a great group of people who have my complete support and encouragement in their work and I commend them to you all.

Please support them, the Crave team and the board as they strive to do God's work to the very best of their ability.

The last month has certainly been a very busy time for the Church with a lot going on. First there was the Christmas Eve service at Marrickville Town Hall. This was an amazing night with over 500 people turning up to worship and celebrate Christmas with us. The Gay and Lesbian Choir and the Homotones added magnificently to the music and the Hon. Michael Kirby was a powerful speaker and we thank him for his words of wisdom and inspiration. Lots of people helped to make this night possible and there was a real spirit of community present on the night. So thanks to everyone who came, helped, advertised and supported what was a true MCC service. Inclusive, uplifting, vibrant and challenging!

We have also had a couple of sadder events during the last month.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> we handed back the keys to Heffron Hall to Sydney City Council after 21 years of managing the building. It was sad to see the end of our time there, especially due to all the different ways MCC used the hall to reach out to the community and to give the community a facility to use. I know that many have very fond memories of the Hall and the time that was spent there. But we have a magnificent building here in Petersham to use and to offer to the community and we should be proud of the achievements that

have brought us to this place and remember with gratitude those who made it possible.

We have also had our shop tenant move out, and we are currently searching for a new tenant. So if you know of anyone who would be interested in the space, please contact the board of directors!

These two last events have also affected us financially as we have lost income from both Heffron Hall and the shop. This is a concern so I would encourage you to give as you are able in time, talent and money to help the Church through this period.

I do believe in the future of this Church and I know that with your support, it can continue on and grow. There will be challenges, but there are so many people who are committed to doing their best for the good of MCC Sydney. Please support them and uphold one another in prayer and the love of Christ.

And now a personal thankyou to everyone who has made me welcome over the past 9 months. You have helped me so much and I am so grateful for that. It truly does sadden me deeply to leave, but I know it is the right decision for me to make. I will always continue to uphold MCC Sydney in prayer.

I hope to see you on this Sunday and on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

God Bless

Gavin  
Rev Gavin Ward  
Pastor  
MCC Sydney

### **Announcements**

#### **Mardi Gras is Coming!**

It seems hard to believe but Mardi Gras is almost here again and there are several ways in which you can get involved helping MCC Sydney during the festival. Names are now being taken at both services for the below events.

#### 1. Fair Day - Sunday 21/2/10

MCC Sydney will be running a stall during fair day. Volunteers are needed to help throughout the day by handing out leaflets and talking to people about MCC.

#### 2. Blessing of Mardi Gras - Sunday 21/2/10 at 7pm

This is an annual event and the only Church service that is part of the festival.

### 3. Mardi Gras Parade – Saturday 27/02/10

MCC will have a combined entry in the parade with the other MCC Churches in Australia and it will be organised by MCC Sydney this year! Jannah Burgess is organising this year's parade. Her email is [godisfaithful79@hotmail.com](mailto:godisfaithful79@hotmail.com)

### 4. Party and Cloakroom – Saturday 6/3/10

This year the parade and the party will be on different nights so everyone will have a chance to come to the party and to help out with the cloakroom! Elizabeth Plant is organising this cloakroom so if you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact her on [notlizzie@hotmail.com](mailto:notlizzie@hotmail.com)