



# Running for GOD

## Annual Report 2012



UNION  
CHURCH  
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*Joint Leaders Meeting*

# Pastor's Message

By Greg Anderson

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“Running for God” is a very apt way to describe Union Church in 2012. There was much running. A member returning after ten years told me she praised God for the vitality she sees—a “beehive of holy activity.” Our Lord continues to bless Union with the people and resources to do amazing things for his Kingdom.

Again I praise God for you and the joy it is to partner with you for what is turning out to be a longer run than I expected. Some committed congregational members and some super staff members passed on the baton to a new generation of leaders and the race continues!

This report is a snapshot of God in action. Please take time to read and pray over the reports. Then together, *“let us run...the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith”* Hebrews 12:1.2

Gratefully,



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## TRUSTEES

Geoff Lovegrove (Chairman)  
Rosanna Chan  
Alan Law  
Isabel Morrison  
Henry Ngan  
John Nicholls  
Marga Wulfgram-Ip

## DEACONS

Don Kanak (Clerk)  
Terri Appel  
Charles Caldwell  
Andrew Chua  
Ewan Copeland  
Shlivya Dhavale  
Mike Witthoft  
Catriona Woodrow

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGMENT

Steve Nutland (Chairman)  
Andrew Teng (Vice-Chairman)  
Matt Mrozinski (Hon. Treasurer)  
Christine Wu (Hon. Secretary)  
Ronnie Cherry  
Shaun Dove  
Eric Fung  
Geoffrey Green  
Joshua Ng  
Lily Ng McIntyre  
Rina Tan  
Kaylan Ng  
Jane Arnett



# Trustees' Report

By Geoff Lovegrove, Chairman



*Trustees' Meeting*

As described in our Ordinance, the Trustees are the body corporate of Union Church. The Corporation holds in trust the property of Union Church for the purpose of a church: for the public worship of God; for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the principles and usages of Protestant Christians for the sole object of spreading the knowledge of Christ; and for the instruction of children and adults; provided always that the Church shall accept as its primary standards the Word of God as witnessed to by the scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments, the Trinitarian Doctrine of the Christian Faith and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The day-to-day function of the Trustees is to oversee the management of investments Union Church is fortunate enough to possess through the foresight and good management of our predecessors.

The church has two main investment funds: the General Fund and the Three-Quarter Century Fund. There are no restrictions on the use of the former although there are on the latter. The Three-Quarter Century Fund was established shortly after the First World War, about 75 years after the foundation of the Church, and any income or capital can be put only towards specified expenses and outgoings connected with maintenance of the church's Ministry. In effect, the Three-Quarter Century Fund is the investment set aside to ensure that we can continue to employ a Minister should we ever be unable to pay our way. At the end of 2012 the market value of the General Fund was approximately \$13.65M made up of about 57% equities, 21% bonds and 22% cash. The Three-Quarter Century Fund was valued at approximately \$7.80M comprising about 59% equities, 24% bonds and 17% cash. The General and Three-Quarter Century Funds showed gains of about 13.6% and 14.2% (net) respectively that is, about 0.3% and 0.1% poorer than the benchmark based on the year-end split of equities, bonds and cash. The two funds have gained about 5% since 2007. The combined investments generated income of \$545,450 during the year.

In overseeing the management of the Church's investments during 2012, the Trustees note the following:

- (a) the aim of the church's investments is steady growth and income;
- (b) the funds are managed by HSBC Global Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited; the Trustees reviewed see no need to change the status quo but keep the matter under review;
- (c) the funds are invested in bonds and companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Trustees saw no reason to change to other forms of investment during the year;
- (d) the Trustees investment guidelines to the fund managers are 0-80% for equities and 20%-100% for bonds/cash;
- (e) the performance of the General and Three Quarter Century Funds was about the same as a benchmark based on the year-end split of investments;
- (f) the investments include a small amount of cash in US dollars but apart from this the Trustees continue to consider it wise to invest in HK dollars, the currency of the majority of church income/expenditure; and
- (g) the Trustees aim to ensure that funds are invested ethically.

The Chater (Union Church) Endowment Fund is an endowment fund that is too small to be managed alongside the General and Three Quarter Century Funds. Invested in HSBC shares (with

a small amount of cash), the Fund was valued at approximately \$107,500 at the end of 2012, showing a gain of about 41% on the year. No disbursement was made from the Fund to Committee of Management which, in accordance with the Fund's Deeds, is responsible for the use of any income.

Early in the year, a Joint Leaders meeting (Committee of Management and Deacons' Court) unanimously decided to redevelop the church site using existing plans and approvals and the Trustees strongly endorse this decision. The Trustees (represented on the Building Union for the Future (BUFF) committee by Dr R. Chan, G. Lovegrove, A. Law, Prof J. Nicholls and appropriate professional advisors) wish to express their gratitude to the members the congregation, Deacons' Court and Committee of Management on the committee who have contributed their skills and worked hard to implement the decision. It is hoped that the congregation will have the opportunity to make material decisions concerning the long-term future of the church early in 2013, in the same way that congregations in the past have made important decisions putting us in today's position of being a strong, financially secure, independent church established by Ordinance under the Laws of the Hong Kong SAR.

# Deacons' Court

By Don Kanak, Clerk

Other than God, it is said that the only constant is change. 2012 has been a year of many blessings and of many changes in the spiritual affairs of Union. After 10 years of loving and encouraging ministry, Pastor May Tsui decided to move on amidst an outpouring of love and thanks from the congregation. Dynamic youth leaders Kristin Franke and Kyle Koster moved on to God's next chapter in their lives, to Princeton Theological Seminary and mission service in Mongolia, respectively. (Oasis was privileged to hear from Kyle about Mongolia in December) As May, Kristin and Kyle moved on, God blessed Union with a new outstanding Ministry Team: Pastors Michele and Matthew, Youth co-leaders Sarah and Ryan, and for an interim period until year end, Pastor Henry Mui. We owe special thanks to Chris Yorks, who amidst all those changes was a tower of strength and a fount of knowledge for staff and volunteers alike, in Worship and in countless ways that he may think go unnoticed---but are always amazing and inspiring.

The Deacons Court has also experienced change. Deacons Don Newlon and Hugh Williams, whose service and faithfulness inspired all of us, returned to the U.S. in the summer. We were saddened in December by the death of Edward Payne, our longest serving deacon, a pillar of faith, whose love for the Lord

and for Union Church set an example for all of us. We miss Edward deeply, but we know that he is with Christ. It is a privilege to continue to serve with fellow deacons Terri Appel, Andrew Chua, Charles Caldwell (who was ordained as a deacon this year), Shlivya Dhavale, Ewan Copeland, Mike Witthoft, and Catriona Woodrow.

The Deacon's Court is charged by the Church Ordinance to be responsible with the Minister for all matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the Church. Deacons together with the Senior and Associate Pastors meet monthly for prayer, deliberation on a range of issues, and encouragement of each other and of various Union ministries. In 2012 we celebrated a growing group of volunteers in various ministries, an increasing number of baptisms of both young people and adults, and a steady stream of new members, who have made a commitment to become active in the life of the Church. Union's Small Groups and Youth Ministry continue to flourish. The Youth capped off the year with perhaps the best ever Christmas Banquet in December. Oasis, begun last year, is now embedded, and the Children's Ministry, with Ting at the helm, is going from strength to strength. And in all the above, we recognize and are thankful for the spirit, commitment and encouragement of Greg Anderson our Senior Pastor. During Greg's six

years at Union, God has blessed Union with extraordinary growth and vitality, and an all-star ministry staff.

Together with Greg, the deacons look forward to 2013 and the exciting things God has in store for Union Church. As we begin 2013, we pray for a year of stability and nurturing of newcomers. We look forward to welcoming a new Missions Director and to fulfillment of the Missions Ministry Team's vision that Missions be integrated with all aspects of the spiritual life of the church. We anticipate with excitement this year's Lenten season and a church-wide unifying theme of "Prayer". We lift prayers of encouragement and support for Pastor Matthew as the process for his Ordination starts. Let us include in

our prayers the Building for the Future team, the Trustees and the Committee of Management as together we seek God's will to find the best solution to space needs created by Union's growth and by the aging of our current church facility. And let us pray without ceasing that Union will always be a beacon of hope, a community of service and fellowship, and a spiritual home where all may seek and find Jesus' love in a frenetic, stressed, material world.



*Deacons' Meeting*



# Committee of Management Review

By Steve Nutland, Chairman



The past 12 months has once again seen a number of changes, challenges and ultimately, blessings at Union Church. Overall attendance and membership has continued to grow, as have the services and ministries. The church buildings are continually close to capacity not only on Sundays but also throughout the week. Youth and Children's Ministries continue to flourish as does Oasis, The Well, Alpha, Recovery from Divorce, Men's Fraternity, Missions, Worship and Small Groups. The church remains in great demand for weddings, funerals and the Playgroup. I am sure you will all agree what a privilege it is to be able to open our home to so many visitors and guests, both believers and seekers of Jesus Christ.

Throughout 2012, COM and the BUFF committee put in an incredible effort to deliver a viable redevelopment proposal for your consideration. At the time of

writing I am unable to say that we have managed to achieve that yet, but I would like to commend the group involved for their incredible dedication, teamwork and commitment in trying to bring that to fruition. Space constraints, alternative options and the upkeep and optimal use of our existing facilities will continue to be a priority area of attention for COM.

The HR committee has also been extremely active this year! During 2012 Union bade a fond farewell to some wonderful servants, including Pastor May, Bianca Tsui, Kristin Franke, Kyle Koster, Lyndsey Moosey and Zarifa Li. We are sad to see them go, and wish them every success in their chosen future endeavours. It has however been a great blessing to welcome Michele Bland, Matthew Fredericks, Ryan Williams, Sarah Lane, Karl Granberg and Lee-Ann McFarlane to join the staff.

I would of course like to thank the existing staff who, under Pastor Greg's leadership, have continued to ensure that the church programmes and facilities are maintained and operational at all times. As well as supporting the main ministries of Union Church, dealing with finances, facilities and staffing, COM has been

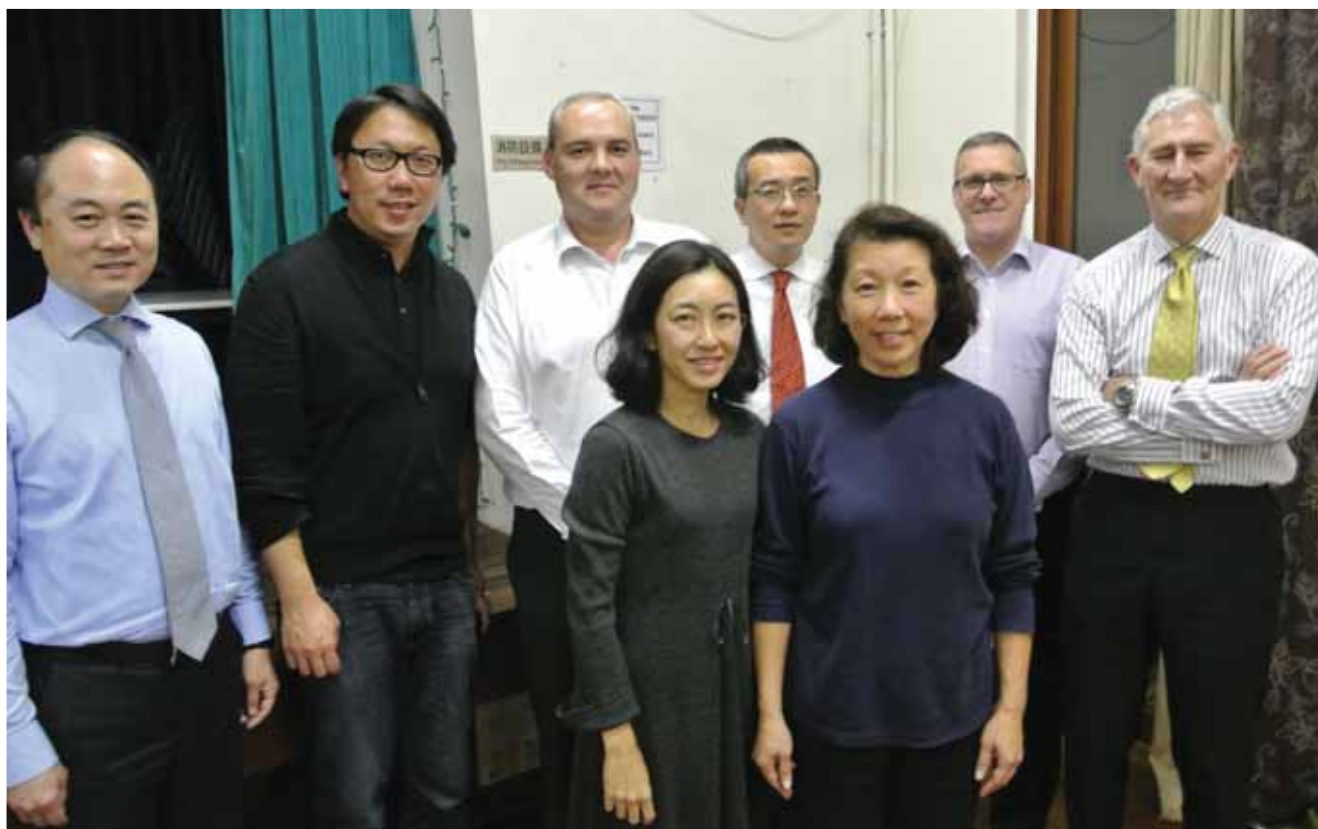


focusing on some other areas in need of attention. Communication, IT and promoting volunteerism have all been areas of concern and I am confident that we will see continual improvement in all areas throughout 2013.

The Committee of Management continues to enjoy a close working relationship with the Deacons and the Trustees. It has been a great pleasure to witness such a large group of people communicating, co-operating and pulling together with the same aims and ambitions.

As for COM, there will once again be a number of changes in personnel. On

a personal level, it has been an honour to serve as Chair for the past year. Every member of the team has humbly dedicated themselves to the task at hand, helping to ensure that the committee has been able to act and respond confidently and in a timely and effective manner. To those members who are standing down, thank you so much for your hardwork and partnership! For those who remain on COM, and to the new members joining the committee, I would like to wish you every success. Union Church is blessed to have such a talented and committed group at the helm!



# Encourage

By Associate Pastor's Report - Michele A. Bland

There is an element of refreshment that comes with new beginnings. I have felt this in my own heart since having the privilege of joining the ministry at Union Church in November. I have enjoyed meeting many people and becoming acquainted with the various ministries. As I reflect on my time at the church I am heartened by the willingness of the staff and others to go the extra mile. Already, I have found myself enjoying and embracing the creative energy I've encountered, happily donning a turkey hat, a gift costume and angel wings as needed.

In keeping with Union tradition, at American Thanksgiving we hosted a well attended church-wide turkey feast. I am grateful for the many helping hands that made the event successful. This was a wonderful opportunity for new comers and old timers to gather, connect and give thanks.



*Thanksgiving Lunch*

In reaching out to the community this Christmas, Union Church hosted a Christmas Fair. It was exciting to work with Lily Ng, the mastermind, and Matthew Fredericks. Our courtyard was filled with many fair trade vendors - there was live music, crafts, games, and even a birthday tent for Jesus. Creativity flowed and 425 participated. It was a wonderful day in which the message of Christmas was shared, relationships formed and worthy endeavors promoted.



Festivities continued at Union throughout the Christmas season with celebrations, extra services and special events. It was exciting – as the message is meant to be.

In these early days, I have enjoyed meeting people through coffees, lunches and counseling sessions. As my role continues to unfold, I look forward to meeting more people, helping them connect with one another and with our Lord.

It would appear that Union Church has seen many changes this year but there is a sense of great anticipation in the air as the New Year begins. I look forward to seeing what adventures lie for us ahead. Thank you Union Church, for your warm welcome; I am excited about working with you and the staff team in the year ahead.

## ENCOURAGE

By Pastor Henry Mui

### Baptism

This year, we started formalized classes for Adult Baptism with 2 courses running in the Fall with a total of 8 adults baptized and 3 Infants baptized and 1 baby dedication. Many of these fruitful conversions were a result of the faithful service and love of brothers and sisters in the Alpha and Small Group ministries

and they were well represented at the Baptism Ceremony on 25 Nov 2012.

In spite of the rain, we had over 50 people in attendance to cheer on:

Tony Chan, Bibo Chee, Renee Hung, Vanessa Lam, Allison Leung, May Tang, Katherine Wong, and Michelle Yeung as they gave their testimonies and received baptism.

Also during the day and evening services, Avril Ng, Max Ethan Lee and Sophie Jasmine Lee were baptized and Janna Granberg was dedicated as each set of parents committed themselves to raising their child with every opportunity to learn, see, hear and experience the gospel of Jesus Christ.



*Baptism*



# Encourage



## Membership

The membership integration process has been developing this year to include a class which allows potential members to ask questions, meet pastoral staff and Deacons and offers a good opportunity to learn and grow as a faithful and proactive member of Union Church. In the Fall, we welcomed Ian and Marion Moore, David and Cathy Miller, Elijah John Bowdre, Raushanah Bowdre and Denis Wong as new members of Union Church.



## Fellowship / Small Groups

Over the Summer, we held our annual Summer Spiritual Refreshment Series while many of our Small Groups took some time off for the Summer Holiday. The SSR was well attended with attendance consistently over 50 people each week as we worked through the Willow Creek Series “The Power of a Whisper” which encouraged us to develop a listening ear to the voice and prompting of God.



*Small Group - Middle C*

This Fall, we welcomed the start of a new small group on the South side and a new Men’s group committed to reading through the Bible in 1 year. As people have been called away from Hong Kong, we have also seen the passing on of leadership of some small groups and the need for new groups to form. If you’re not in a small group community yet, prayerfully consider it as a spiritual resolution for the new year! We have over 20 groups who meet weekly on every day





of the week in many different parts of Hong Kong. If one doesn't fit your needs or schedules, let's form one together!

## Fellowship Events

In September, we resumed our Welcome Lunches with invitations to over 30 visitors and friends who have visited us over the summer. These have been an excellent opportunity for visitors to connect with us as a church community. Please note that the Welcome Lunches are hosted monthly on the 1st Sunday of



*Hiking*

the month and followed by a Membership Class on the 2nd Monday evening. Be sure to keep these dates in mind as you invite friends to church and consider coming with them to the Welcome Lunch and Membership Class to give them every opportunity to get connected here at Union.



# Encourage

## RECOVERY FROM DIVORCE AND SEPARATION COURSE

By Michael and Anne Birley

The Recovering from Divorce and Separation Course entered its sixth consecutive year in its current format. The six-week Course ran in the summer and autumn this year and some 20 guests in total attended. In addition to the Church staff who do a wonderful job with the set up and tidying up after each week, we would like to thank Marissa Danao and Ann Nacson who have been very generous with their time and support. Each time we run the course we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have a church that supports this often overlooked area of life. Quite a few of the people who attended are not regular churchgoers and others often feel that they are not accepted or understood. Through the six weeks we see people develop new skills that often assist in changing and improving their view of their situation, if not the situation itself. These are skills that will continue to be useful as they work on re-establishing their lives and stabilizing often dire family situations.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

By Charles Caldwell

God speaks to us through His written word, the Bible. We speak to God through prayer. The Prayer Ministry team's vision is to see the prayer life of Union Church mature into a natural desired and shared activity, under-pinning every aspect of individual and church life. We encourage people to rely on one another as the Body of Christ for prayer and encouragement not just during difficult times but also to give praise for the successes in life. Just as we share in the joys of life we also share in the tears. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8



## Encourage

The backbone of the church's prayer ministry team is the Union Church Prayer Chain. Prayer requests or praise reports are emailed to this group who remembers people in their prayers. This year the prayer chain increased considerably in size to well over one hundred individuals. Even individuals who have left Hong Kong remain on the prayer chain. Therefore in many ways people are receiving global prayer coverage once prayer requests are submitted. At the start of each week, intercessors receive a copy of the Weekly Prayer Matters from the Sunday service bulletin and other prayer requests or praise items. Throughout the week prayer requests are emailed out once it is received. If you feel called to join the Union Church Prayer Chain please let us know.

Please remember that the prayer ministry team is available as requested to pray before and after services for congregants in need. Going forward, the plan is to increase prayer ministry after our services and continue with prayer workshops. For the upcoming year our prayer is that people rely more on prayer, come forth for prayer and also pray for what the Lord would like us to uphold in prayer.

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“ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”  
*James 5:13-14*

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# Educate

## Children Ministry By Ting Guevarra-Small

It was a year of many “firsts” and much growth for the Children’s Ministry in 2012. We saw our children step up and grow in their faith, families get closer, fellowship and commitment to service deepen.

Under the leadership of our Director, Ting Guevarra-Small and Intern, Elza Wong we re-branded the ministry into Kingdom Kids with a vision of “Raising children for Christ’s kingdom.” We renamed our classes, Xtreme Servants, Faith Warriors, Hope Artisans and Love Nobles, corresponding to a new Sunday School curriculum from Gospel Light. We also revitalized the Children’s Praise Time at 9:30am, with fun videos and lively music offered to our king! Over 150 children attend thirteen classes of Sunday School each week, taught by a roster of more than 40 volunteer teachers, with a dozen more babies in our Crèche supervised by our manager, Adele Yip. Our Playgroup continued to attract neighbors into our church seven sessions a week under the leadership of Judy Hon.

In February, we had the first of our popular Bible and Book Bazaar which put God’s word into our homes and the hands of our children. We had a special time at our first fellowship and outreach event, Mother and Daughter Tea as 72 mothers and daughters created their own bags,

watched family performances and drank lots of tea!

In March, we had the first of our Family Movie Dates, providing food and feature movie for a fun fellowship time

on a Sunday afternoon. In June, we joined thousands of child advocates around the world with prayer activities in our classroom during VIVA’s World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk. It was a milestone month as two of our eight-year-old students stepped up in their faith and follow the Lord in baptism after their one-on-one baptism classes. With much gratitude and awe for God’s blessings this school year, we closed with an End of Year Party where we played games, heard testimonies from children and teachers, and graduated eleven of our students moving on to the Youth group.

Despite saying goodbye to some of our teachers, our deacon representative Don Newlon and COM representative Jan Johnston, it was an exciting summer for Kingdom Kids. Our new COM representative, Rina Tan stepped up to the plate and Sarah Lane joined us





from Princeton Seminary to take the reins when Ting takes on a new role as “mom.” We continued to meet for praise time and bible study at Sunday School Lite. Then we had so much fun and great memories at the Pandamania VBS. Around 80 children, including Union Church Missions scholars from Inner City Ministries (and visitors from Paris!), experienced the unconditional love of God through bible study, songs, crafts, games and snacks. Thirty-six volunteers served at our bamboo and lantern garden, many of whom have not participated in a VBS before.



*Palm Sunday*

We carried the summer energy into Kick Off Sunday as Kingdom Kids led a sports-themed barbecue party welcoming everyone back from their holidays. The hoopla continued at this year's Hallelujah Party where we celebrated the Olympic year with games, photos, crafts, and treats for our costumed praise-makers and their families. As if these “sporting

events” are not enough, we had another male bonding time at the Father and Son Hunting Hike, where teams competed in a photo scavenger hunt at the trails and parks surrounding Union Church.

In December, our children ushered in the holiday cheer by telling the story of Christmas “to the Aliens” in two Christmas Musical performances with different casts under the direction of Angel Wilson and our Worship Director, Chris Yorks. Then we had a meaningful Christmas Party that raised sponsorship for underprivileged children to have their own VIVA Christmas party where they will be fed, given a present and told the glorious story of our Savior's birth.



For all of these, we give credit to the selfless and dedicated ministry of our teachers and volunteers. We honored them with a hefty breakfast of donuts and cinnamon rolls at our first Meet the Teachers and with teacher appreciation

# Educate

gifts. We gave them an opportunity to grow and learn in a teacher training session, Understanding and Supporting Children with Special Needs led by Truth Omole, and we sponsored thirteen of our Sunday School and Playgroup teachers to an off-site L.E.A.R.N. Teaching Lab. Truly, we cannot thank them enough.

## YOUTH

**By Kristin Franke**  
**January-July 2012**



The youth ministry continued to grow in 2012, thanks in large part to students inviting their friends to join both the regular youth group as well as the Youth Alpha Course launched by Rebekah and Sarah Nutland, and run by a committed team of volunteers. New core volunteers have joined the Friday night team to provide small group leadership and mentoring on Friday nights and throughout the week. The youth team also welcomed Lindsey Moosey as an intern in the spring. In February, the youth went off-site for an overnight 30-

Hour Famine, a fundraiser and poverty awareness event. The proceeds were split between sponsoring a pre-school in the Philippines through International Care Ministries, and supporting the work of World Vision. In March, the Youth Alpha Weekend was held at the YWAM base in Kam Tin. On this year's Easter mission trip, 17 senior high youth went to Mongolia to visit Flourishing Futures and serve alongside their team. On Youth Sunday in May, members assumed leadership of the service. Four students were confirmed and four were baptised after completing either the Youth Alpha Course or the annual Confirmation and Baptism course. After the school year ended, there was a second mission trip with International Care Ministries to visit the sponsored pre-school and to help with a construction project, which 12 students took part in. Over the summer, the church said farewell to Kristin and Kyle as they moved on to new chapters in their lives, and welcomed Ryan Williams to lead the youth ministry in the fall.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

By Ryan Williams

August-December 2012

Youth kicked off this year with our new Youth Director Ryan Williams. Ryan is a graduate from Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Michigan in the United States. He comes to us with a degree specializing in Youth Ministry and has a love and passion to see students grow and mature in their faith. We also welcome Karl Granberg, Youth Intern. Karl is finishing his degree of Theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary and shares the same passion and vision for youth. We are also excited about having Sarah Lane, Spring Arbor University as well as Princeton Graduate. She was the interim Children's Ministry director and Co-Youth director for the following year!

Union Youth Ministry exists to develop lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who love God with all of their heart, soul, mind, strength, and who love their neighbor as themselves. This year was packed full of fun and exciting new initiatives to fulfill that mission. Adult volunteer involvement has increased and they have been doing a brilliant job of pouring into the lives of students. We have seen plenty of new faces and have expanded in our impact to new students as relationships are building. Much of this "discipleship making" happens behind the scenes with late night runs to McDonalds, long talks

in the Youth Office, basketball on Sunday after church and invitations over for a meal at a flat. So far we had one student who openly committed his life to Christ and many are on the verge. Students also express an interest and even feel a calling into full time ministry as their future career.



The youth had a great time at the Fall Youth Retreat entitled, "What's Your Story?" where 23 students were able to reflect on who they are becoming through their life experiences and how God has been working through those experiences. We have also had big turnouts for our Dodge ball Tournament where the students competed to be named Dodge ball Champions. On behalf of initiatives began by students in response to a sermon series, we have become a regular installation at Inner City Ministries in Kowloon, where students have taken it upon themselves to be involved and tutor, and help run kids club partnering with ICM.

We have also seen more students



taking initiative in serving the church, becoming key volunteers, serving at the Hallelujah Party, Christmas Fun Fair and leading the congregation on Sunday morning's worship. We had a great Christmas season and an unbelievably successful Christmas Banquet! The students and volunteers served and worked hard to put together a Christmas Banquet to remember. The hall was beautifully decorated and the student choir led the attendees in songs. Our MCs made people laugh (were adamant about everything going to the kids) and we greatly thank those who came and supported Youth Missions. We raised HK \$88,625 to go towards the mission trip with Christ Love Social Service Centre in Jinan, Shandong province in the spring of 2013. It will also provide scholarships for our own students and support the work being done at Christ Love Social Centre.

A goal of the youth ministry is to see students take ownership of their ministry. This has taken place through partnership with ICM, an all student-led worship team and new students being brought by their friends to the youth ministry. During this time of transition we have seen consistently an average of 40+ students join together to play, pray, worship and grow together on a Friday night. Praise God for all that he has done and all that he will continue to do with and through the students.





# Educate

## EDUCATION OVERVIEW

By Matthew Fredericks



2012 has been a year of dynamic transition. This introduction catalogues these changes in brief, and provides a background to the various authors and subjects of the education reports to follow.

After five years of unsurpassed youth ministry, Kristen Franke left Union Church to matriculate at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her co-director, Kyle Koster, also resigned from Union Church after two years of highly successful ministry to serve in

Ulaanbaatar with Flourishing Futures. Kristen and Kyle together built the youth group from a fledgling programme of several dedicated families into Union Church's primary means of evangelism and outreach. When Kyle and Kristen moved away to their new positions, the youth group had 120 adolescents on the roster and a regular Friday night youth group attendance of 45 teenagers.

In August of 2012, Ryan Williams journeyed from Michigan in the United States to occupy Kristen's vacant youth director position. A recent graduate from the Department of Theology at Spring Arbor University, Ryan embraced the daunting expectations created by two Union legends. Ryan continued the best of Kristen and Kyle's policies (the Friday U'th Games and Talk, a Cambodia Mission Trip, the Christmas Banquet, and the Resound) while adding his own creative ideas (the Dodge-ball Tournament, the Student Leadership Group, and the Christmas Party). Ryan, together with the new Assistant Pastor, hired Karl Granberg to replace Lindsey Moose as Union's youth intern. Lindsey, by playing lacrosse on a high school league and visiting the international schools, attracted a plethora of new youth to the group; Karl revamped the youth ministry database and data system—of inestimable value in tracking student attendance and participation. Ryan reports the particular successes and

# Educate

alterations of youth ministry later.

Ting Guevarra-Small joined Union Church as the Children's Director in October 2011 after 13 years of competitive marketplace experience with Bear Sterns, UBS, and Citibank. After her retirement from finance, Ting graduated from Talbot School of Theology. Ting went on maternity leave from late September 2012 to mid-January 2013 after twelve full months of ministry to care for her newborn daughter, Madison Joy. Sarah Lane, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (and an alumna of Spring Arbor University—also Ryan's alma mater), assumed the role of interim children's director. Ting and Sarah together attracted record numbers of children to Union Church. An average of 150 children aged from one to 11 attend Sunday school and the Sunday crèche programme every week. In addition to the vibrant ministry on Sunday, Ting created a summer Vacation Bible School programme and Sarah worked with music director Chris Yorks to stage the Christmas musical. Beyond Sunday, Judy Hon hosts a morning 'Playgroup' or Christian daycare ministry in the church courtyard. This provides a service to the Mid-Levels community and augments Union's visibility amongst parents of small children in the neighbourhood. Ting hired Elza Wong, a long-time Union member, to assist her as an intern. Elza supplied the children's ministry team

with exceptional computer knowledge as well as organisational wherewithal.

Matthew Fredericks joined Union Church as the assistant pastor in August of 2012 after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary (he and Sarah Lane attended PTS simultaneously). Matthew formerly taught high school social studies in Brooklyn, New York and earned a Master of Education degree at CUNY. Union hired Matthew to help lead the education programme. Ting has full autonomy in children's ministry. Matthew oversees the youth ministry, young adult and adult education programmes. During his initial month, Matthew founded "The Well", an adult education programme that meets every Sunday at 6pm for a 45-minute lecture followed by a general discussion. "The Well" invites professors and ministers to lecture on interdisciplinary topics related to the Christian tradition and/or theology, thus providing a depth of biblical teaching not possible in an exhortative, Sunday morning sermon.



## THE WELL

By Matthew Fredericks



evangelical function- drawing people with questions to Union Church.

The Well, held every Sunday evening, is structured in three parts. First, the emcee provides a brief introduction to the topic of the month and introduces the speaker from 6 to 6.05pm. Second, the speaker delivers a forty-minute lecture from 6 to 6.45pm. Third, the speaker answers questions from audience members from 6.45 to 7pm.

The purpose of the Well is twofold: 1) provide excellent adult education on the Christian tradition and 2) provide a forum for people with questions to discuss Christianity. The first goal equips participants to engage meaningfully in discussions about faith in the home, work place, and church. The second serves an

The Well was established in October and addressed one topic each month. In October, speakers focused on the Gospel of Matthew. In November and early December, the Well addressed controversial topics. In December, speakers presented several lectures on Christmas as represented in Christian art.

Date	Speaker	Topic	Attendance
Oct-07	Matthew Fredericks	Overview of Matthew	28
Oct-14	Howard Marshall	Names of Jesus in Matthew	48
Oct-21	Sarah Lane	Foes or Friends? Science and Faith	
Oct-28	Robin Mattison	Women in Matthew	28
Nov-04	Andrew Chua	The Holy Spirit/ Speaking in Tongues	29
Nov-11	Prof Percy Wong	Structural Poverty and Christian Charity in HK	25
Nov-18	Dr. Wayne Nieminen	Forgiveness	26
Nov-25	Panel Discussion	Ordination of Women, Fasting, Protestants and Catholics, Israel-Palestine, Marriage	24
Dec-02	Dr. Kim Wong Chan	Islam & Christianity: "Who is the last representative of God?"	35
Dec-09	Matthew Fredericks	Where does Christmas come from?	25
Dec-16	Matthew Fredericks	Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol	17
Dec-23	Sarah Lane	Frank Capra's It's a Wonderful Life	



# Educate

## LIBRARY

By Thomas Tang

### *“Libraries are the medicine chest of the soul”*

*(inscription from an ancient temple in Thebes)*

Union Church has its own library although it is probably one of our lesser-known intellectual havens. Under the leadership of Grace Payne supported by many passionate volunteers, this little oasis of knowledge exists tucked away on the stage in the annex hall concealed by a set of heavy stage curtains. But draw these folds away and you will find a treasure trove of books categorised under Christian living, fiction, pastoral care, Christian classics (yes we have CS Lewis!), bible study, biographies, reference aids for church leaders and questions of life. Books by great contemporary Christian writers like John Ortberg, Bill Hybels, Philip Yancey, Rick Warren and Nicky Gumbel - to name a few - grace the metal shelves of our compact collection, enough to satisfy the soul of any ardent Christian book lover. In the second half of 2012, the library loaned out just over 130 books.

Interested? Fed up with mindless tweeting and blogging? Feel that you are missing a crucial piece of literary prose in your life? Pay the library a visit between the Sunday morning services and from 12.00 to 1.00 pm to

see what is on offer. We have a relaxed seating area - so, grab a cup of coffee, come and sit down and browse your way through a journey of reading pleasure! We are also on the look out for volunteers to help run the lending desk and (if it appeals to you) to do book reviews.

Contact the church if you can spare some time. Happy reading!

Librarian: Grace Payne

Volunteers who served in 2012:

Thomas Tang, Jen Lu, Edwina Lee, Chin Ching Leau, Robin Wong, Janet Au, Mila Dondiego, Marissa Danao, Sonia Rolden, Evelyn Bobis, Rinawati Wawa, Jayesh Chatlani





# Evangelise

## Introduction by Greg Anderson

Union Church, since its founding in 1844, seeks to “win men [and women] to faith” and to assemble together “in divine worship.” We praise God for the opportunities to witness and worship that He provided to us in 2012. We welcomed Matthew Fredericks to Union as our Pastor of Outreach. In the few months he has been with us, it has become very clear that we have found just the person to direct our efforts in areas of mission and evangelism. We continue to thank God for the musical ministry of Chris Yorks. More and more members are exploring, expanding, and sharing their musical gifts.

As you read these reports, consider how you might join the teams that run Alpha, missions, and worship.

## ALPHA

### By Patrick Wilson

In 2012, we ran Alpha Courses in April and October once again and about 60 guests and leaders completed the course. It has been exciting to see lives changed, new friendships made and broken relationships restored through people experiencing the Holy Spirit for themselves. It has been very encouraging to see several guests received their baptism at Union Church. On our last course, we were blessed with many new helpers and leaders, some of whom had



*Alpha team*

only just completed the course as a guest. Also, we have been blessed with donations of cooked dishes prepared by some of Union’s Small Group members. They have been really appreciated by everyone at our weekly dinners.

New courses are already being planned for 2013. Please remember that the most effective way to encourage new guests to attend an Alpha Course is through a personal invitation. Moreover, if the host also attends, the guest is most likely to complete the course.

I would like to thank our Core Team members, group leaders and helpers, taskforce members, church staff and food donors who have all contributed so much to the success of Alpha this past year. Finally, we thank God for his faithfulness and give Him the glory for all He has done in our lives.

# Evangelise



## MISSIONS

By Dennis Hopton

Union continues to strive to make the Great Commission an integral part of the body of the church. Two years after combining the ministries of Community Care and Missions, the missions' team is working well together with one heart!

Concluding a year long search, Union has decided to call Lee-Ann McFarlane to help lead outreach ministries and be the 'face' of missions to the congregation. Lee-Ann has served in Swaziland as a missionary for the past seven years and comes ready to help lead UC to new levels in missions' service.

New ministries in 2012 included a major foray into Mongolia with significant support for livelihood and evangelism projects with Flourishing Futures. Our own Kyle Koster finished his service at UC by serving three months as a 'missionary in residence' while the full-

time missionaries took a short period of leave. Brad Landes led a group of men, along with Morgan Jackson of Faith Comes by Hearing, on a discovery trip on how Union might best engage this new frontier.

We expanded ongoing involvement with Faith Comes by Hearing by funding Proclaimer Units at Shekinah Alliance Bible College in General Santos in the Philippines and through the Four Square churches in Cambodia. The Proclaimer Units will help train pastors. The oral gospel is highly effective in bringing the "Good News" to rural, unreached communities throughout Asia.



We continue to support the Phdau Penh orphanage in Cambodia and the incredible ministry Four Square Children of Promise (FCOP) throughout this nation. A crisis developed during the autumn with the failure of the Cambodian rice crop. Union responded to this critical need in a BIG way by committing to the purchase of 40 days

## Evangelise

of rice supply for the 3,000 orphans across 100 FCOP orphanages. We as a church stepped out in faith, shared our abundance and blessings, and exceeded



the goal by raising more than \$300,000. At the Bawing Alliance Evangelical Church (BAEC) in the Philippines, we are transitioning the church with livelihood projects to enable them to be self-sufficient and take responsibility for the scholarship programme the Union Church congregation has faithfully supported over the past six years.

While we are winding down the scholarship programme in Bawing, we are ramping up scholarships and assistance to seminary students at both the Shekinah Alliance Bible College in the Philippines and the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Shatin. We look forward to the impact the LTS students from Southeast Asia will have on Union Church in 2013!

Via the Outreach Foundation, funding

was raised from several individuals to assist the opening of the first Christian hospital in China since 1949. Further activity in China included Union Church completely funding the establishment of new group homes for young adults of the International China Concern orphanage in Heng Yang.

We as a congregation continue to ‘Go & Serve.’ The year 2012 included a ladies conference trip in Cambodia, a men’s conference trip to Mongolia, a youth mission trip to China, and several trips to Bawing in the Philippines.

And you do not have to go overseas to serve. Teddy Li has led a group from UC to ‘give love back’ by serving the elderly and needy at St. Barnabas in Hong Kong’s Western District. Anna Rees led teams on a weekly basis in a street ministry of prayer and witnessing in the Wan Chai Red Light District.

The dispersion of Missions funds continues to be roughly split evenly





# Evangelise



between local Hong Kong ministries and overseas throughout Asia. Missions directly supported Inner City Ministries (KLN), St. Barnabas (HK), Home of Loving Faithfulness (NT), Alpha Course (HK), HK Christian Kun Sun Association (prison ministry), Lutheran Theological Seminary (NT), Asian Charity Services (HK), Chung King Ministries (KLN), Flourishing Futures (Mongolia), Outreach Foundation (China), International Care Ministries (Philippines), International China Concern, SALT (China), BAEC (Philippines), Shekinah Alliance Bible College (Philippines), Four Square Children of Promise (Cambodia), and support for our missionaries: Rayners (Kazakhstan), Cora Joaquin (Philippines), and Anna Rees (NT).

On December 4, 2012, Typhoon Pablo tore through the center of Mindanao Island in the Philippines, causing incredible damage and the loss of 1400 lives. As we begin 2013, Union Church is stepping forward once again to do our

part in alleviating the crisis. Efforts are being put forth to help rebuild many of the 25 church buildings of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines (CAMACOP) which were either completely destroyed or heavily damaged by this storm.

Union Church has a crucial role in making an impact across Asia and we are excited about increasing the involvement of each UC member in fulfilling the call the Lord has given each and every one of us to Go & Serve!



## WORSHIP

By Chris Yorks

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. (Psalm 95:1-2)

And we did! I had much to be thankful for in 2012. It was a year of growth and

blessing for Union's music ministries, with many new faces and initiatives. Thank you all for your support and inspiration throughout 2012!



## Worship services

The 8.30 Communion Service is in its third year, averaging around 20 people. It continues to bless a committed group of members and guests who are nourished on a weekly basis. This service is a joy to work with in its weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The 9.30am traditional service goes from strength to strength, thanks to Forrest, Janice, and our gifted choir. Blessed be the tie that binds! The sense of community and commitment is nurtured through the common goals of worship, fellowship, and excellence in music. The Advent cantata continues to be a highlight with the presentation of "Heaven's Child". We were blessed to have the cantata at both 9:30am and 11:00am services once again. Highlights for 2012 also included, an Easter brass

quartet, the Union string ensemble and the Christmas Orchestra, with carols and candle light on Christmas Eve. We are grateful for all our instrumentalists and singers who share their time and talent for the glory of God. If you sing or play an instrument, we welcome you to join us in 2013!

Our 11am Contemporary Service continues to grow and increase with new singers and players. We are ever blessed with the beauty of their singing and playing. Our worship leaders and team of volunteers continue to grow and expand our horizons with new songs and styles of worship. The youth band and youth worship leaders have also increased their participation in leading both sanctuary and U-Cafe worship. We also enjoyed Union's third annual Christmas Musical, as we were invaded by "Christmas with the Aliens"! It was out of this world (!) thanks to Angel Wilson and her vision of featuring a 9.30am and 11am cast of children this year. It was a huge success, thanks to our many volunteers! You are always welcome to join in!



# Evangelise

The U Cafe service meets simultaneously with the 11am service in the Fellowship Hall. Led by a gifted team of musicians and coordinators, the attendance has grown higher, averaging around 125 people on a Sunday. U- Cafe would not be possible without the efforts of volunteers bringing together technical aspects, music, creative design, and the wonderful food and fellowship provided for all who attend. Our volunteers are loved and appreciated. We are always in need of a few more! We were also blessed last year and this year to have a weekly minister helping with leading and praying. May U-Cafe continue to thrive in the year ahead.



The 6pm evening service was moved to 5pm last year and continues to be led by gifted teams of musicians and worship leaders. Interestingly, the time change brought us a number of new visitors and attendees, changing the face of this established worship. We also featured special guests and new worship

experiences last year hence increasing attendance and interest in this service. Look for more variety and experiences in 2013! Our 5pm service continues to be an integral worship service for Union Church.

Music Makers continues to grow with new children and volunteers! The children brought special music and liturgy to our worships culminating in a fall mini-musical and Christmas musical. We have fun with all aspects of music and worship. We learn about music and notation using rhythm instruments, choir chimes and just about anything else that will bring the joy of music to our children. This includes singing and voice training.

## OASIS - YOUNG ADULTS

By Matthew Fredericks



Kristen Franke and Kyle Koster founded Oasis to attract young adults to Union Church and provide them with spiritual refreshment mid-week. Kristen and Kyle



initially relied on their social network through playing ultimate frisbee to attract the first participants. After several months, Kyle and Kristen strategically withdrew from leadership of Oasis; Raquel Hopton and long-time member Joshua Ng assumed responsibility for the ministry. Raquel organised the food, speakers, and emceed Oasis evenings while Joshua organised, and often led, worship and prayer.

Kyle and Kristen created the following structure for Oasis. At 7.30pm on Wednesday nights, young adults gather for fellowship and refreshments. At 8pm, the worship leader (generally Jeff Lam

or Joshua Ng) opens Oasis with several worship songs. Following worship, leaders in fields such as business, law, or the non-profit sector deliver talks on faith in the workplace, home, financial matters, etc. At 8.45pm, the speaker finishes. Oasis participants then separate into small groups to discuss three or four questions posed by the speaker until 9pm. Following Oasis, most young adults go to the Peak Café for drinks and socialising. In September of 2012, Matthew Fredericks, the new assistant pastor, assumed gradual responsibility for Oasis whilst still relying on and expanding the volunteer base. On October 7, a meeting of the lead Oasis volunteers concluded

Date	Speaker	Topic	Attendance
Aug-29	Doug Caldwell	The Bible and Money	25
Sep-05	Doug Caldwell	The Bible and Money	27
Sep-12	Doug Caldwell	The Bible and Money	26
Sep-19	Rob and Christine Lilwall	Trekking Mongolia, Law at Oxford, and VIVA	27
Sep-26	Debbie and Graig Rayner	Union Missions Forum, Kazakhstan	31
Oct-03	Tim Rainer	Soul and Spirit	28
Oct-10	Wade Wollin	Prepositions and God	16
Oct-17	ICM Banquet,	No Oasis	21
Oct-24	Prayer and Worship Night	Prayer and Worship Night	24
Oct-31	Matthew Fredericks	“Jesus: Sabbath Breaker or Keeper?” Growing Up Seventh Day Adventist	25
Nov-07	Daniel Cheung/Wanda Yuen	Disasters in Matthew/ Coming to Hong Kong	23
Nov-14	Robert Whitehead	“The Law in the Gospel of Matthew” HK Law Stories	24
Nov-21	Whitney Kinsey	“Do Not Worry”: My Love-Worry Story	25
Nov-28	Mike Powers	Spiritual Warfare in Matthew	28
Dec-05	Kyle Koster	Mongolia and Matthew	30
Dec-12	Lawrence Tuck	New Zealand Christianity	34
Dec-19	Christmas Party	Tram Ride	35

# Evangelise

that Oasis needed to 1) go deeper with the Bible and 2) grow in intimacy as a fellowship. To accomplish this, under Matthew's direction, Oasis members spoke on Wednesday nights, relating every topic to the Gospel of Matthew (a church-wide focus). Attendance remained constant, but the format became looser, until Pastor Greg Anderson encouraged Oasis to return to original structure of 15 minutes of worship, 30 minutes for the speaker, and then 15 minutes for discussion.

## FILIPINO MINISTRY

By Pastor Ruth Tablada

### Praise Team workshop conducted by



#### Ana Rees.

We thank God for people who are willing to give their time to train others in leading in worship. It has made a difference in the lives of the members of the Praise Team and has improved their worship leading.

### Quarterly Prayer & Fasting

Our focus is to draw closer to the Lord

and prepare our hearts for what He wants to accomplish through each of us. As a result, we experienced healing of sicknesses. One person testified that after prayer, her father who was paralyzed by stroke, unable to speak and had a swollen stomach, was restored to health! Broken relationships were restored, forgiveness



released and relationships restored.

### Baptism

An employer introduced his domestic helper to us. We shared the gospel with him and he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. After follow-up lessons and the baptism class, he was baptized. He was a changed man. He said that when he goes home for vacation he will buy Bibles for his wife and children. He desires that they too will follow Jesus. To God be the glory!

### Mission Fair Trade in December

We participated in the Mission sponsored Fair Trade and the Filipino Choir sang with Chris York during the 5pm Service. The Jehovah-Jireh flat continues to serve as a place of refuge, shelter and center for Bible study and Worship during the

# Evangelise

week. It is a beacon of light to many that stayed. It is a privilege to serve as His carriers of compassion.

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“...stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”  
*1 Corinthians 15:58*

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## PREACHING

Our Senior Pastor, Greg Anderson, preached most Sundays (34). Pastor May preached 7 times as she completed her amazing and much missed ministry at Union. Pastor Matthew preached 5 times and won the hearts and minds of his listeners.

Interim Pastor Henry Mui and our youth director, Kristin Franke also preached. Special speakers included David Wang (Founder of Asian Outreach), Ted Olbrich (Cambodia Foursquare), Amy Orr Ewing (Ravi Zacharias Ministries), Rod Wilson (President Regent College), and Howard Storm.

Theologians John Witte (Emory University) and John Stackhouse (Regent College) also preached. Deacon Charles Caldwell saved the day and preached the Sunday Greg's plane was delayed.





# Administration

## PROPERTY

**By Rosanna Chan and Property Committee**

We have been blessed with a relatively quiet year, with just one or two renovation projects and some general repairs.

With our rapidly expanding Children's ministry, we have had to make room for more Sunday School classrooms. To do this, we made use of the upper courtyard area to install two large marquees with their own water and electricity supply, as well as air conditioning. We also carried out some renovation works in the Upper Room to convert it into the Children's Ministry office. To improve safety for the children, vision panels were put into the doors of classrooms and offices. With the growth of our church, the number of people at U Café has grown from under a hundred to around 200 on some Sundays. To help improve the cooling in the hall an air conditioning unit was installed at the back, close to the French doors.

In July, the flooring of the Sanctuary, the entry foyer and the Fellowship Hall was cleaned, sanded down and re-polished. At the same time the red carpet in the Sanctuary was replaced and the entry foyer was repainted.

Some works were also carried out in the Manse to convert the laundry room to a maid's quarters. The hot water heater was moved and changed and an air conditioner

was put in. This year, a significant amount was spent on repairing the rattan chairs and pews in the Sanctuary.

The PC is very grateful for all the help we have had from the church office, particularly Josephine, from Jane who is the COM liaison, and for all the support from our janitors. Most of all we are thankful to our gracious God who has blessed our church premises as well as our congregation and has allowed us to grow both in numbers and in spirit.



## STEWARDSHIP

By Andrew Teng

Despite the economic challenges facing several of Hong Kong's business sectors, the total number of pledges from the

stewardship drive of November showed only a small decrease compared to prior year. Several of the pledge cards were from new givers. May God shower His blessings upon those who give with cheerful hearts.

### 2012 Thanksgiving Commitment Card Result

	Pledge	No of people	Amount (HKD)
existing	new	23	815,820
		67	3,340,200
	existing (remark)	22	1,235,200
			5,391,220
	One-off donation	28	715,120
	Donation to Union Church via FOHKC		
existing	new	7	472,000
		16	2,102,160
			2,574,160
	Grand total	163	8,680,500

(remark) all were with commitment cards except this is without commitment card

# Human Resources

By Lily Ng



The year 2012 continued to be one of change for the Human Resources Committee. Lily Ng-McIntyre took over from Christine Lai as the CoM representative, and Mike Witthoft joined as the Deacon representative, succeeding Hugh Williams.

This year Pastor May Tsui left Union after ten years of faithful service. During her ministry with us, she embodied servant leadership. Guests were made welcome and offered opportunities to connect through Fellowship. Small Groups were nourished and thrived. We thank Pastor May for her years of faithful service and how she exhibited Christ's love in everyday ways.

We also want to give special thanks to Kristin Franke and Kyle Koster for building a dynamic Youth Group based on

a sustainable youth ministry model, and for starting Oasis, our mid-week spiritual refreshment, primarily directed at young professionals and non-Christians.

There were a number of other staff changes as Union continued to develop and grow its professional ministry team. Pastor Henry Mui quickly made an impact at Union in his role as Interim Associate Pastor among Small Groups,



and especially with the Baptism Class. In December Pastor Henry, along with Pastor Greg and other congregation



members, witnessed the baptisms of eleven people (eight adults and three children), plus one baby dedication. Each adult gave a moving personal testimony. We thank Pastor Henry for his ministry with Union.

Sarah Lane was amazing in Children's Ministry during Ting Gueverra-Small's maternity leave.

In Administration, Christina Mo brought commitment and professional HR expertise to the role of Church Manager. She worked closely with Josephine Lee, Zarifa Li and Jessica Mak to support the programme staff and the many events held at the church. Christina did a wonderful job working with Andrew Koo to develop custodial standards and procedures. We want to recognise the special contributions Zarifa Li made in the area of graphics and desktop publishing as communications to the congregation continue to be an area of focus. Bianca Tsui also deserves special recognition because, in addition to being Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor, she stepped in whenever needed.

God brought some amazing new hires to Union in 2012. Pastor Matthew Fredericks joined as Assistant Pastor and has already made an impact with his powerful and thought-provoking sermons. Under his leadership, mid-week spiritual refreshment in Oasis has

continued to flourish, as has The Well, our newly introduced adult education offering on Sunday evenings. Both have enjoyed remarkable speakers and are poised to further excel in 2013. Working with him and also new to Union and Hong Kong is Ryan Williams, our co-Youth Director. Karl Granberg, a recent graduate from Lutheran Theological Seminary, completes the team and together they create opportunities for our junior and senior Youth to get to know Jesus better.

After an extensive search, Pastor Michele Bland was chosen as our Associate Pastor (interim until the AGM). With a background in Small Groups, Fellowship and Pastoral Care, Pastor Michele has already successfully organised the Thanksgiving luncheon, the Christmas Fair and has begun working with small groups. Please take the time to introduce yourselves.

Lee-Ann McFarlane has also joined as our Missions Director, arriving in Hong Kong at the end of January.

The HR Committee exists to support and guide the professional staff as they seek to partner with Union members to do the work God has for us. We are thankful for pastoral, programme, administrative, and janitorial staff for their commitment to Christ and to Union.

# The Union Church Team



*Happy Tea Time*

NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Senior Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Greg Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the diverse parts of Union united</li> <li>• Head of staff</li> <li>• Primary Preacher</li> <li>• Represents Union to wider community</li> </ul>
Associate Pastor (Interim)	The Rev. Michele Bland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomes and integrates visitors into the life of the church</li> <li>• Nurtures believers to disciples</li> <li>• Provides pastoral care and prayer support.</li> </ul>
Assistant Pastor	Mr. Matthew Fredericks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leads/Organizes Oasis &amp; The Well</li> <li>• Manages Missions &amp; Youth Ministry</li> <li>• Secondary Preacher</li> <li>• Staff Liaison with Alpha</li> </ul>
Worship Director	Mr. Chris Yorks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designs and coordinates worship services</li> <li>• Serves as Worship Leader and support to volunteers</li> <li>• Directs children's music and instrumental activities</li> </ul>

NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Ting Guevarra-Small	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for programs for children between 0 to 10 years old</li> </ul>
Creche Manager	Ms. Adele Yip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for the care of babies under two years old on Sundays</li> </ul>
Children Ministry Intern	Miss Elza Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Children's Ministry and Playgroup</li> </ul>
Playgroup Coordinator	Miss Judy Hon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles all matters related to playgroup, from lesson planning to classroom teaching</li> </ul>
Youth Director	Mr. Ryan Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
Youth Intern	Mr. Karl Granberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Youth Ministry</li> </ul>
Mission Director	Ms. Lee-Ann McFarlane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mission Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
Filipino Ministry	The Rev. Ruth Tablada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor for the Filipino Congregation.</li> <li>Provides counseling, Shelter-Pastoral care, and discipleship</li> </ul>
Church Manager	Mr. Tom Ing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church operations supports &amp; supervision</li> <li>Oversees church office administration &amp; event co-ordination</li> </ul>
Executive Assistant	Ms. Anita Au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant to the Senior Pastor</li> </ul>
Business Administrator	Ms. Bonnie Yan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles church accounting matters</li> </ul>
Administrative Assistant	Ms. Josephine Lee Ms. Karen Lee Ms. Jessica Mak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General administration &amp; church operations support</li> </ul>
Wedding Coordinator	Ms. Anita Au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-ordinates wedding booking &amp; arrangement process</li> <li>Facilitates ceremony arrangement on wedding day</li> </ul>
Janitors	Ms. Winnie Yuen Mr. Ming Chan Mr. John Tam ( Yau )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take care of the maintenance &amp; cleaning of the church compound</li> <li>Perform &amp; maintain the overall church housekeeping duties</li> </ul>

*The church members would like to take this opportunity to thank the Union Church Team for their diligence and hard work during 2012.*



# The Union Church Family

## 16 ADULT BAPTISMS

1. Ahmed Abdul Saeed
2. Chung, Vivian
3. Au, Selene
4. Lim, Sandra
5. Kong, Janet
6. Zhen, Jenny
7. Wilson, Angel
8. Du, Rennan
9. Wong, Katherine
10. Chan, Tony
11. Yeung, Michelle
12. Hung, Renee
13. Chee, Bibo
14. Tang, May
15. Lam, Vanessa
16. Leung, Allison



*Adult Baptism*

## 4 YOUTH BAPTISMS

1. Hannah Passamonte
2. Andrew Chan
3. Chris Appel
4. Renee Wong

## 5 CHILDREN DEDICATIONS

1. Wong, Kurtis
2. Sheley, Max
3. Sheley, Sam
4. Granberg, Jaana
5. Madison Joy Small



## 3 CONFIRMATIONS

1. Reed Garrett
2. Stephen Garrett
3. Aaron Niehorster



## 9 CHILDREN BAPTISMS

1. Tan, Julian
2. Tan, Danielle
3. Liu, Jude
4. Wee, Ella
5. Lam, Jason
6. So, Yuri
7. Ng, Avril
8. Lee, Max
9. Lee, Sophie  
Jasmine



## REGULAR ATTENDEES LEFT HONG KONG

1. Garland. Zoey, Kayla & Jaden Wong
2. Johan Van der Walt
3. Vina Goi
4. Andy Filardo & Beth Profit
5. Don, Kelly, Rachel & Caleb Newlon
6. Hugh & Marie Williams
7. Eric & Nozomi Hirota & family
8. Kristin & Grant Franke
9. Doug & Lisa Caldwell



*New Members*

## WEDDINGS

1. Benjamin & Samantha Or
2. Michael Birley & Anne Sawyer
3. Swanson Chan & Doris Cheung

## 40 NEW MEMBERS

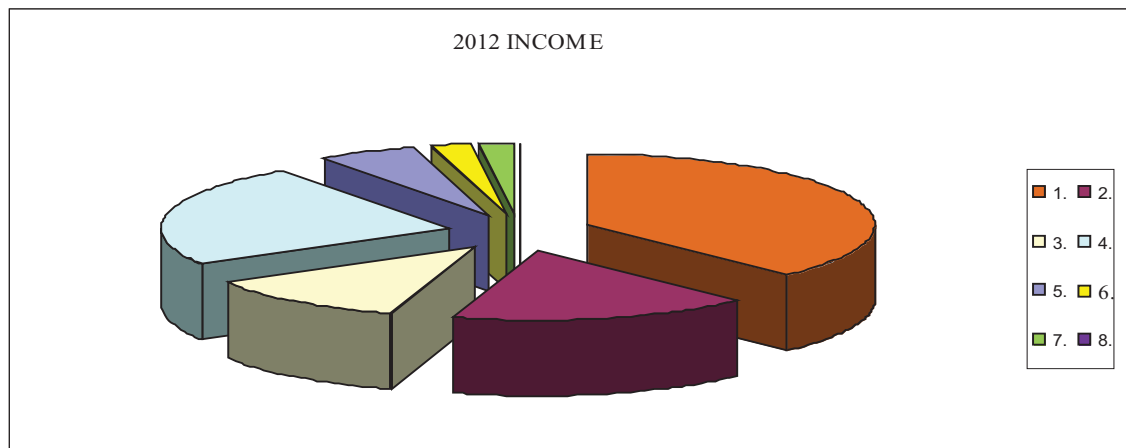
1. Collins, Brian
2. Collins, Whitney
3. Garrett, Scott
4. Garrett, Linda
5. Keswani, Linee
6. Yu, Betty
7. Siu, Grace
8. Law, Tak Fai
9. Law, Kwai Ying
10. Busumbru, Lisa Opoku
11. Dennison, Aquin
12. Dennison, Taiq
13. Hanna, Mary Barbara
14. King, Susan
15. Koh, Belinda
16. Yuen, Chiu Wan Wanda
17. Leung, Kathy Kar Wai
18. Wilson, Timothy Raymond
19. Bradsher, Keith
20. Bradsher, Danielle
21. Lever, Danny
22. Lever, Yu Chen
23. Luk, Wei Kwang
24. Morr, Forrest
25. Ah-weng, Joanthan
26. Vetuz, Gwen
27. Mpolokeng, Morienyane
28. Omole, Truth
29. Wee, Koon
30. Seng, Eunice
31. Depner, Jan Martin
32. Depner, Jutta
33. Mok-Tsoi, Siemen
34. Moore, Ian
35. Moore, Marion
36. Miller, David
37. Miller, Cathy
38. Elijah John Bowdre
39. Raushanah Bowdre
40. Denis TK Wong

# Treasurer's Report

By Matthew Mrozinski

Union Church has continued to be blessed financially during 2012. Despite high levels of uncertainty in the global and local economies, giving to Union Church was higher in 2012 than in 2011. Combined with the impact of increasing revenues from weddings, funerals and playgroup, total income for the year topped HKD 15m, some 6% above the budget.

	2012 INCOME	Amount (in HK\$)
1.	Pledge offerings	5,671,016
2.	Weekly offerings	2,553,460
3.	General Donations	1,767,476
4.	Donations via FOHKC	3,555,009
5.	Others - Wedding services, net	862,417
6.	Others - Funeral services, net	322,594
7.	Others - Playgroup, net	275,715
8.	Other income	14,215
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,021,902</b>

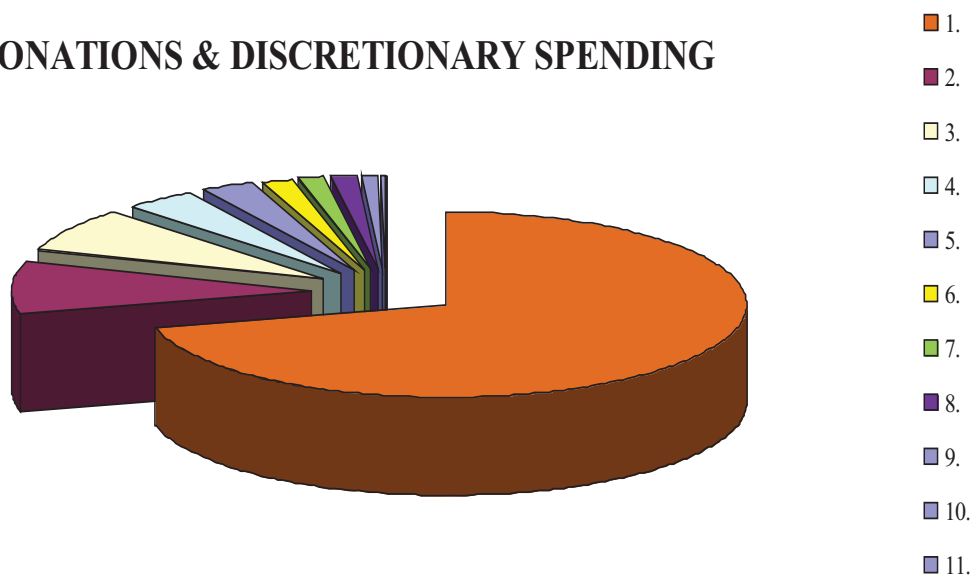


This continues a positive trend of income in recent years, which has risen from just below HKD 9m in 2009, to HKD 10m in 2010 and HKD 14.7m in 2011.

On the expenses side, overall spending was lower than budget. Total staff expenses comprised 52% of income, whilst donations to Missions increased again to 15% of income. With another surplus, COM took the decision at its December meeting to increase reserves for the redevelopment fund to HKD 5m.



## 2012 DONATIONS & DISCRETIONARY SPENDING



1.	<b>Mission Ministry</b>	<b>2,264,428</b>
2.	<b>Worship Ministry</b>	<b>281,606</b>
3.	<b>Education Ministry</b>	<b>252,771</b>
4.	<b>Christian &amp; Missionary Alliance</b>	<b>120,000</b>
5.	<b>Filipina Ministries</b>	<b>87,000</b>
6.	<b>Encouragement Ministry</b>	<b>52,474</b>
7.	<b>Communications</b>	<b>50,010</b>
8.	<b>Oasis</b>	<b>43,412</b>
9.	<b>Broadcasting</b>	<b>19,000</b>
10.	<b>The Well</b>	<b>12,277</b>
11.	<b>Others</b>	<b>908</b>
		<b>3,183,886</b>

# A Brief History

**By Greg Anderson, David Bunton, Brooke Himsoworth and Geoff Lovergrove**

Union Church was founded in 1844 by the Rev. James Legge, a Scottish member of the London Missionary Society. Then known as Union Chapel, the first building was constructed in 1845 on Hollywood Road. An English service was held in the morning and a Chinese service in the afternoon.

Legge served as pastor from 1844-1867 and from 1870-1873. He began translating the Chinese classics into English. His translations are used to this day and still in print. He was a major figure in early Hong Kong and the founder of the very first government school (now called Queens College). The Legge Lectures have been named in memory of James Legge.



*Rev. James Legge*

In 1866, Union Church relocated to a new site on Staunton St. near Hollywood Road and Lyndhurst Terrace. It was called “the handsomest building in the colony.” Dr. Legge returned to the UK in 1873, where he became Oxford’s first professor of Chinese.

In 1890, the church was moved stone by stone to the present Kennedy Road site. Meanwhile the Chinese service became a sister church, Hop Yat, which has produced over 1000 daughter churches. Union’s only daughter church is Kowloon Union (1924).

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during WWII saw the forced closing of Union. The events surrounding its total physical destruction remain a mystery. (The most intriguing thesis is that it was used to rebuild Government House—especially the Japanese tower.)

The survivors began fund-raising and the existing fellowship hall was built in 1949, then used for worship until the sanctuary was finished in 1955. The education annex was built in 1970 and later named after the 1977 death of the Rev. Dennis Rogers, perhaps the most significant 20th century Union pastor.

Since the handover in 1997, Union has changed from a predominately European expatriate congregation to a church that is 60% Asian. Union has gained a reputation for strong lay leadership and launching new ministries (Alpha, Emmaus) that have greatly blessed the wider community.

Gregory Anderson, arriving in 2007, is Union's 21st pastor. May Tsui is Union's 2nd associate pastor; Ruth Tablada is the 2nd pastor to the Filipino fellowship.

Union has gone from a ministry of the London Missionary Society to an independent congregation. Three boards govern the church: The Deacons Court, Committee of Management, and Trustees. A charter member of the Hong Kong Christian Council and active in the Network of International Churches, Union faces the future with a firm sense of its founding charter:

*We differ in small matters, we agree in great realities.  
We trust that we are one in Christ Jesus. We all love him  
Who died for us. On the fact of this great unity,  
our Union as a church is based.*

*-James Legge 1849*



*Union Church on Hollywood Road (1845)*



*Union Church on Kennedy Road (2011)*



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Christine Wu  
(Honorary Secretary)





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