



December 25th, 2012

Dear Friends

For many, December and Christmas are almost synonymous with the season to be 'merry'.

For me, reflection on the coming need of our church fellowship is the consuming priority for our year end meeting. How does one balance up the need of school children, with pastoral need, directional and resource desire beyond the unavoidable routine cost of existing as a community? To make life more interesting our year end meeting often brings out subtle constituent tensions that do not always reflect us at our best. Harmony and merriment is sometimes a stretch! Only after this can I get to think about Christmas.

Our organisational theme is to: Reach up, Reach out and Reach across – in short we are invited to 'Reach'. It is a simple notion, with the potential to be profound. Reaching requires that we choose to extend ourselves from where we are, either to grasp something we do not have, or to share something for the benefit of another. The act of reaching appears physical but is driven by an internal quest for connection. We have a need to give and a need to be receptive.

For this reason I chose 'reaching' as the theme for our [2013 financial plan](#) because in Scripture, it is usually God who 'reaches' out to people. Indeed the Christ child – Jesus, is the expression of God's reach, festively celebrated. In the giving of gifts we do not simply exchange wealth, we express our connectedness. Presents and presence embody the emotional reach we have for one another. In a similar fashion, throughout the year our service is a gift whose value is not priced. Our task each day, the giving of ourselves is to 'reach'. To receive the hand God continually extends our way, to offer connection to the un-connected and to form a warm bond of Christ like affection in the community we call 'church'.

My prayer is that, the reach of each, will be a merry experience for this season and the year to come.

Thank you for your appreciated contribution to our community of faith.

