

Tours of Spicer 5/5/12

Start outside the hall.

Originally, this site was known as the East Adelaide Methodist church

Worship has been happening on this site since 1883, for 15 years a weatherboard building was used. Then in 1887 the congregation outgrew those buildings. Sir Edward Spicer, who was originally a pastoralist donated 1,000 pounds and the church was built, with the congregation raising 400 pounds to clear an existing debt.

By 1904 the church had grown and needed to expand. The transepts were added in 1904, with Sir Edward Spicer donating 500 pounds provided the congregation raised 300 pounds.

After Sir Edward Spicer died, in 1906, the congregation resolved to call the church the "Spicer Memorial" church. In recent years we have taken to calling it just "Spicer". The hall was added in 1899, the vestries in 1911, and the gallery inside the church in the same year.

Originally the church had 4 spires but these were damaged in a storm in 1954, and were replaced with the castle like tower now present.

In July 1977, the Methodists joined with the Congregational church, and Presbyterians and became known as "the Uniting church in Australia"

Before we go into the church, see those single fronted cottages across the road? The money for those cottages was also donated by Edward Spicer, and a trust set up called the Spicer Cottages Trust. The Trust allowed retired Methodist ministers or their widows to live in there at a low rent. Since the Uniting Church was created the Trustees have sold the cottages and applied the proceeds in building more modern, and more numerous accommodation, but the basic mission of caring for retired ministers or their widows or widowers still exists under that Trust.

Move into the church

The pipe organ was built in 1907, costing 470 pounds, the ladies of the congregation held a fete and raised 400 pounds of that! Originally the organ was driven by water pressure, but then in 1914 an electric motor was installed. The organ has been expanded and renovated many times since then.

The organ is used most Sundays in worship, where we have a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary music. A typical Sunday worship will have a keyboard, bass guitar, 2 guitars, drums, and 3 or more vocalists. At times there will be trumpet, and other instruments used to enhance the music ministry of Spicer.

Move to front of the church

Children are encouraged and welcome at Spicer. During the services younger children are welcome to come to this corner where they can draw and still be part of the service.

Stained Glass windows

IN the transepts are 2 stained glass windows installed to commemorate those who enlisted in world War I, then we can see another window , called “ The Light of the World” installed after a gift from a late parishioner, a Mrs H Kiezling.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the RSL to renovate the windows that commemorate WWI.

Take time to come back and look at the other windows here, but (*moving into the prayer room*) but here we have a modern window installed in 2008 This is a creation of a local artist Cedar Prest, and is to reflect the 4 seasons or wherever you imagination takes you).

This room was the vestry, in times past the bride and groom would come back here to sign the register, but generally the bridal party signs the register in the church these days. This space was set aside in 2008 and is available for quiet reflection and prayer to anyone when the church is open.

(return to the church)

You can see the old lectern up the top where the large bible is kept. In times past the minister would preach from there, and in front , either side of the lectern in rows sat the choir.

Over the last 20 years we have renovated this area to better suit modern style of worship, this railing has been moved a few times and this raised area here was expanded to go all the way to the western boundary of the church so that the band was on the same level as the communion table and lectern that we now use.

We have an intergenerational emphasis on our worship and music. We always have a mix of traditional and contemporary music, and use the projector and screen up there for the words to songs that we sing, in place of the old hymn books. During worship at times use film, including using DVD forms of the bible, and power point to help in sermons, and children’s talks, and prayers.

In 1995 When this church building was in a pretty poor state of repair, we sold the Manse, a house in Winchester Street, St Peters. The manse was also in a pretty poor state of repair. The proceeds of this sale enabled us to paint and repair cracks in this church and the hall, re-paint, polish the wooden floors, repair the roof, and importantly do up the kitchen.

This was a period of re-birth for Spicer which had dwindled to a congregation of only 31 members, and did not have a full time stipend minister but with some extraordinary commitment, passionate leadership, extraordinary time and energy the congregation grew from that small number to a vibrant all age group who can now afford a full time minister, part time office administrator and part time music director.

For some time the rest of the capital not used for the renovation of 1999 was invested, but in 2011/2012 we commenced a major building work which saw us demolish some toilets, and rooms out the back which had been put up in the 1960's and create the atrium space, new toilets, new flower preparation space and storage area.

Move into the atrium

This is part of the stage 1 renovations. This space is used by our weekly playgroup for their art, and was put to good use in our Easter Sights and Sounds production, (this is a passion play which we put on bi annually, on the even years) that alcove there was the scene where Judas agreed to betray Jesus.

This bell here has done some travelling. It was the original bell used for the Church before the existing hall was built. Then it was given to the Hackney Mission, which operated from the small stone building on Richmond Street, Hackney. Then after a fair bit of too-ing and fro-ing, and when the Hackney Mission closed (now incorporated in Wesley Uniting Care) the bell was given back.

Move into the youth room.

This room is used on Sunday mornings for our upper primary school age children, and on Friday nights by our Youth group. It is a good space for seminars, as it has the screen, and overhead projector.

Walk into the new passage, turn right back into the atrium.

New toilets have been built, and other utility rooms along here, a space for flower preparation, and storage. At the street end are the offices of the minister and our Administrator. The office is manned Tuesday to Friday every morning. Please help yourself to our Spicer Matters publication, which reports on the activities of the month. Our website has all the current and past editions for you to view if you wish.

We now get to see our Renovations stage 2, completed only in the last few days, we have only dedicated it this morning.

Move into the Meeting room.

Re-painting and carpeting this room, creating this upgrade has been part of our stage 2 renovations.

This room is used on Sunday mornings by our kindergarten and early primary school age children. Their time is spent in hearing the biblical stories and craft. This room, and other parts of the church are used by the play group which meets every Tuesday during term time. Many of the parents, grandparents and nannies who bring the children stay for a simple lunch provided by church volunteers. We have a craft group that meets monthly in this room. Many hirers also use this space.

Walk from meeting room to new room

This is part of stage 2 of our renovations, there used to be a passage here and small rooms either side. This will be a space that our Youth group will use on Friday nights, but will be available for hire.

Move into atrium and into new kitchen

This is our new kitchen, which is double the size of our previous kitchen. We are looking forward to testing this kitchen for our biblical feast which is happening on 22nd June 2013. We are planning a 5 course meal using recipes which are an interpretation of what would have been eaten in biblical times, with bible stories and cultural experience to go with it. Our cooks can't wait to put on a big function with space and new appliances to make a wonderful feast.

Move into the hall

This hall is used for morning tea after every service, crèche is set up on the carpet area at the front for babies and toddlers. The hall is also used extensively by hirers, with Scottish county dancing, yoga, karate just to name a few activities that occur during the week.

Our Spicer Community Lunch meets here monthly as well.

All the hirers enjoy the quilts on the wall here. The 3 quilts on the eastern wall were completed in time for the first Easter Sights and Sounds, in 1995 (?). The purpose is to help with sound proofing, as the hall fills with people it can get noisy, but also it is the fundamental Christian message for all those who come here. The Children's quilt on the northern wall was added in 1999.

If you are interested there is a plaque on the wall that gives the story of the making of these quilts, by the members of this congregation.

Please stay for coffee or tea and a biscuit, if you have any question on any aspect of Spicer then please ask me, or anyone wearing a badge like this one.