

Annual Reports

August 2023



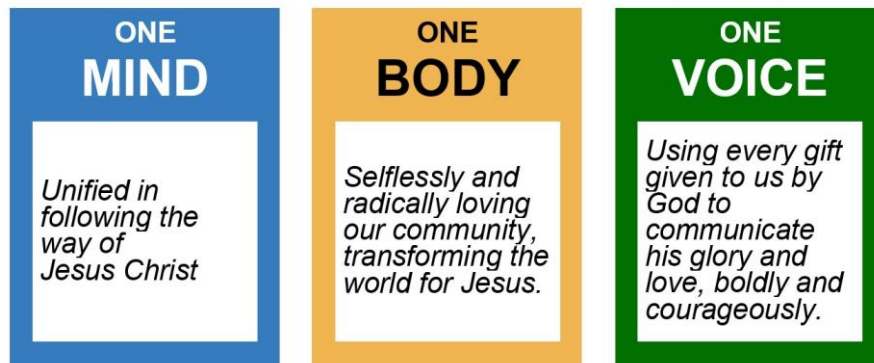
Our Purpose

Moving Forward Together in
Christ's Steps

Our Vision



we have a **dream** that we will be of



Our Values



we are **passionate** about



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Pastor's Report

Ettalong Baptist Church has a Purpose, that in everything we do we would be moving forward together in Christ's steps.

We recognise that we exist as Christ's body here on the Central Coast to, "with one mind and one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:6)

Our vision is that we would be of...

1) **One mind:** *This part of our vision is to do with growing in the gospel, that we would be more Christ like, and equipped to serve him as his body, the Church.*

With this vision we Commit to unity both in our church and with other churches.

2) **One body:** *This part of our vision is to do with living out the gospel in practical ways as the body of Christ.*

With this vision we commit to loving and serving the community without expecting anything in return.

3) **One Voice:** *This part of our vision is to do with communicating the gospel. We want to do this effectively and boldly using the gifts and resources God has given us.*

With this vision we commit to using our resources (sometimes in quite radical ways) to openly proclaim the gospel of Christ, in word, deed, and with everything we do and have. Resources include our building, spiritual gifts, raising up and training leaders.

We value many things but we are passionate about:

The Bible

- Knowing God through his Word
 - ❖ *2 Timothy 3:16–17, All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Prayer

- Communicating with God
 - ❖ *We use the word communicating intentionally. Prayer can be talking, listening, meditating, etc.*
 - ❖ *We want to bring everything to God, speak with him, listen for him, trust in him.*
 - ❖ *Everything needs to be fully surrounded in prayer.*

Our Community

- Loving people and making disciples
 - ❖ *We desire to love our church community and our Central Coast community.*
 - ❖ *We desire everyone to know the love of God.*
 - ❖ *We welcome, love, include and respect all, regardless of differences in ethnicity, age, gender, wealth or family status.*
 - ❖ *We love our community with no expectation of any response in return.*
 - ❖ *We desire to evangelise by sharing Christ's love and gospel of salvation with our community.*
 - ❖ *We desire to see people grow in their relationship with Christ.*

Everything we do should help us fulfil our purpose, look forward to our vision and reflect our values.

We are a busy church. We have two worship services each Sunday.

Our 9.30am service continues to be a blessing to many. We average up to 70 people in our building and 20 people online.

In our preaching we have studied the epistles of 1, 2 and 3 John, and we have studied a series on Spiritual Gifts. In January we reflected on some Psalms, and learnt the

importance to sit, walk and stand in Christ, from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. We have reflected on statements made in the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer, and in May we reflected on how we can be partners in mission.

Our music team faithfully leads us to worship in music and song. Our AV team make it possible for many to participate in the service on You Tube, both on the Live Stream during the service and watching the recording of the service after the Live Stream has ended. Thank you to Joey as he has capably organised and led the music and AV teams.

SHOUT!!, our 4pm intergenerational service, continues to grow. We have around 16 adults and 18 children who attend SHOUT!!, many of them regularly. We meet from 3.30pm in the Hill Hall for refreshments and activities, followed by singing, prayers, and a Bible Lesson. Occasionally we also celebrate communion together. We have been using GodSpace for our curriculum which is produced by the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT. Thank you especially to Jane who puts in many hours of work to prepare for SHOUT!! each week.

Our church is blessed with many wonderful ministries, most of which are reported on in detail in this report. God is doing exciting things amongst us. As you read about our ministries you will see that we are truly moving forward together in Christ's steps.

Prayer is the powerhouse of our church. Every week small groups of faithful people in our church meet to pray. A small group of people meet to pray on Sunday mornings about 8.45am in the Downstairs Hall. They would love to welcome more people join them for prayer, as they faithfully pray for our services and for revival in our church. A group of people have formed a roster to pray with people at the end of our 9.30am service. Greg leads two prayer meetings on Zoom on Tuesday mornings and evenings. The church building is open for private prayer during Ministry of Leftovers opening times. Our Connect Groups pray together each time they meet. We have a number of active prayer triplets, and prayer partners in the church. Our Leaders pray together whenever they meet. Our ministry leaders and volunteers spend time together praying for their ministries, and we have nearly 50 people (or couples) on an email prayer chain. As we pray our relationship with our Father God strengthens, and we see God move. God is doing great things here at Ettalong Baptist Church.

As I close my report may I encourage you to persist in prayer, and keep looking to where God is moving us? One of my favourite Bible passages is Luke 18:1, where Jesus exhorts his disciples to "always pray and not give up."

The passage then goes on to explain that in persistence there is breakthrough. Many of us become discouraged when we don't see a quick reply to prayer and are prone to giving up. This text encourages us to continue in prayer, to persevere in prayer, to be tenacious in prayer, because in the end it results in a release of God's supernatural power. As our relationship with Christ grows stronger, and we trust in him completely, we give him the opportunity to continue to bless us in mighty ways, beyond our expectations. In everything we do we must continue to be moving forward together in Christ's steps.

Glory and Praise to God
Grace and Peace to you
Pastor David Gilchrist

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Elders' Report

Elders: David Gilchrist, Denise Psaila, John McFarlane, Jane Keuning

At the Church Annual Meeting election of Deacons, Elders and Church Officers, Jane Keuning and John MacFarlane were elected to serve a three-year term as Elders. They joined Denise Psaila.

David is the chair of the regular monthly Elders meeting with the Elders taking the minutes and distributing them.

The Eldership seeks to provide a level of spiritual leadership and support to the Senior Pastor, Deacons and Ministry Leaders. Elders attend the deacons meeting on a rotation basis. Jane Keuning agreed to be the Elder's representative on the Safe Church Team.

This year the Elders have continued to provide spiritual leadership on various issues, including review of the final report of the Revitalisation Committee. Ted Bell attended several meetings providing some sound suggestions regarding the church's proposed new leadership structure. Other matters included a review of the Church Council meeting issues, Worship Leader position and Dare to Believe workshop (held in March 2023).

In addition, the Elders discussed and reviewed Safe Church policies and supported the Footsteps of Paul Tour (including support for the pastor to attend) and supported a proposal for the Baptist Association and Central Coast Baptist Churches to employ a Regional Minister one day a week. The Elders also reviewed positions descriptions and the Nomination Committee report for the coming annual general meeting. The AXIS leadership shortage and on-going future was discussed at several meetings.

God has been good and it has been a learning experience for the Elders seeing God provide the pathway for serving the church with prayerful and practical support of the Diaconate, Ministry leaders and congregational members.

Prepared by John MacFarlane

Deacons Report

Contact Details of Church Secretary: vacant

Position vacant since Jan 2023: acting secretaries since January

Unfortunately, Stephanie van Leeuwen (Deacon), needed to resign from the Church Secretary position at the end of last year. It is a huge loss to the Deacons' meetings particularly, and for the Church quarterly meetings in general. Steph left large shoes to fill, after many years of faithful and dedicated service. She always fulfilled the role with a commitment to excellence.

The Secretary role has been taken on by a few volunteers, being Heather Crawford, Jean Lynch and more recently Helen Brooks. We are thankful that we could have people acting in the role, but hope and pray that someone will come forward to fill that Deacon position very soon.

We welcomed two new people as ministry partners, and always encourage church members to consider becoming ministry partners.

We had a baptism (David Mullard) and dedication (Thomas Botfield) in the church this past year, which is always a great cause for celebration.

Sadly, several of our members and Ministry Partners passed away this year, including Natalie Hubscher, Marie Lade, Richard Foster and Kate Brophy.

Following the Revitalisation Process, we have gone through a period of reflection of who we are and who and where God wants us to be, with a few changes in roles, and a few other proposed changes to our leadership structure being recommended at the AGM.

Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who have supported us and guided us. The time, energy, and dedication that you freely give is greatly appreciated.

May we continue to grow faith and service, enabling us to go forward and spread God's love and hope to our local community.

Jean Lynch
Administration Deacon

Administrator's Report

Contact Details of Administrator: Jean Lynch

Mobile: 0425 749 224

Email: jeanelynch@gmail.com

The Deacons really appreciate the many people who continue to faithfully and sacrificially serve upfront or behind the scenes to meet our various church needs. They do not go unnoticed. Thank you!

Office Staffing

Thank you to all the wonderful office staff members who work selflessly each week, supporting the work of our church, and for the stand-in volunteers who can be called upon to fill vacant days. Thank you to Merryll Mead who has stepped in on Fridays. You are all a very important 'first point of contact' for EBC..

Real Estate

We had a new tenant move into for our rental property at 1 Coolabah Street in June, and are grateful to our Property Officer and others, who have been able to attend to maintenance jobs, which is a considerable cost-saving to the church. There is an on-going problem with cars that race around the carpark at night doing 'donuts', which is a disturbing experience for the tenants, and also doing damage to our church property.

Church Directory

The PDF version of the church directory was again updated and sent out in May.

Constitution

Our Church Constitution was updated in two phases in 2022, with the changes passed and adopted at the two quarterly church meetings.

Leadership Structure Document

The Leadership Structure Document was also updated accordingly, as per above and this year David and the Elders, and others have been working on a proposed simplified leadership structure.

Church Premises Use

We continue to have regular users of our premises and get frequent inquiries for use / hire of our wonderful facilities. This is a valuable way to be visible and of connecting with our wider community. This could also be an extra means of revenue for our church if we decided on a fee structure?

First Aid Training

Australia Wide First Aid has been booked for Wed Aug 23rd with about 10 people from EBC and a few outsiders attending. This is essential training for ministry leaders. Thanks to Meg Toon for organising the training.

Annual Reports

It is great to see the activities and achievements of the many ministries of Ettalong Baptist Church via the Annual Reports Thanks to all for the reports.

Jean Lynch
Administration Deacon

Property - Maintenance

Contact Details of Coordinator: Geoffrey Toon

Mobile Number: 0405 020 649

Email: geoffreytoon@bigpond.com

Four major repairs were undertaken this year. Modern toilets units were installed by a combination of volunteers and licensed plumbers. The old toilets had failing components and consumed excessive water. At the same time the hot water systems have been upgraded to meet the current standards for safe water temperature for hand washing for elderly and young people. The Men's shed gate was replaced, and the main building primary entrance doors were replaced with a wider opening to meet standard access requirement for people with a disability. The worn-out upstairs exit door was replaced with an AC special to suit the non-standard size.

Future major projects include: 1) power saving electrics such as LED lighting and water heating, by seeking financial assistance with grants. 2) On-going consideration of storm water management.

The bulk of the work has been dealing with minor breakdowns of the facilities. A few of our members have continued to see a need, and have fixed the issues such as lawncare, outdoor painting and garden care. We thank these few for the dedication they show for the preservation of the property. During the year a request, was made for others to take on the responsibility for several other tasks of a routine nature that don't require special tools, skills or knowledge. Despite a negative response, this need will continue into the upcoming year and a greater contribution will be required by members to ensure safe and proper usage of the premises.

Geoff Toon.
EBC Property Officer

Treasurer's Report

Contact Details of Acting Treasurer: Rick Keuning

Phone Numbers: 0425 206 459;

Email: treasurer@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

A financial report is attached to the back of these reports, with a proposed budget for 2023 / 24.

Thank you to Rick Keuning who has been acting in this position since November 2022. Thank you also to all those who have assisted with counting money and who have helped Rick in any way.

We have been using the services of Balance Ministries which is a resource of the Baptist Association. Thank you to Sylvia Groves for all the help she has given to us this year. Thank you to everyone who have continued to support the church so generously in so many ways.

Children and Families

Mainly Music

Contact Details of Leader: Joy Watt

Mobile: 0417 443 372

Email: jrobywatt@gmail.com

We have continued in a time of valleys and mountains as God walks us on the road of ministry discovery and expansion.

Our team of faithful servants:

- Kerrie Brown our storyteller and family welcomer.
- Merle Shumack our prayer warrior and family welcomer.
- Jean Lynch our attendance monitor and kitchen supervisor.
- Robyn Gillespie our carer and welcome monitor.
- Robert Watt and Peter Brown, our music and sound desk monitors.
- Jane Keuning our craft organiser and Hill Hall organiser.
- Joy Watt our program dreamer, writer, and administration supervisor.
- We also acknowledge as part of our team who step up to help during holiday and illness emergencies, Aimee Durrand and Colleen Arkapaw.

Our Barista team who faithfully make all those drinks to our choosing:

Alan Crutcher, Les Baker, Dennis Arkapaw and David Gilchrist.

Our hospitality team who supplies us with our delicious morning tea eats:

Maureen Vickers, Beth Wykes, Sheila Hooper, Lee Oehm, Maree Crutcher, Wendy Creamer, Ruth Mc Farlane, Colleen Arkapaw, Melanie De Jagar, Denise Psaila and Elsie Goodsell.

Our background team who faithfully make:

- Our gift bags, Aimee Durrand
- Our Birthday and Baby cards, Jan Rose
- Our men who move the chairs each Sunday
- Our cleaner, Caroline Murphy
- Our prayer warriors who daily pray faithfully and consistently.

As you can see Mainly Music involves us all and we praise God for each one of us as we work for Him in creating this community around music and play.

Mainly Music Ettalong Baptist Church celebrated its 8th birthday on the 21st of July, 2023. It was an exciting day and as we shared about making and sharing special memories with our children and families, and the celebrations of Easter and Christmas that we participate in as God's family. As a team we work, under Jesus' grace, to provide a program that delights, accepts and grows this God-given community. Yes, this statement is the same as last year because it is the mission of Ettalong Baptist Mainly Music.

We continue to run a Mainly Music/Playtime programme. We have a story time during the music segment and craft time during eat, play, and chat and this is meeting the needs of our community, as families come and go depending on the family needs.

Our team remains committed to showing and sharing Jesus to those who come and join us. The segment, Time to Talk, where we share a verse of scripture and relate it to parenting, encouragement and challenge during the session, continues to be well accepted and has created many opportunities to raise the point, talk about Jesus and pray with parents as we share and chat.

Chat times have proved invaluable in many ways. Several families have joined our SHOUT program, and others have come and tried SHOUT but are spasmodic in attendance. Please continue to pray for all the families that they will come and seek Jesus to be real in their own and family life.

We continue to be involved with families that are seeing trauma, disruption and separation and it is a real privilege to be able to walk, pray and support in the different ways as these opportunities present.

One family has been blessed through the attendance at the Alpha course.

Our attendance continues to be fruitful, averaging 30 children, with most being between the ages of birth to three years. After this age Day Care and Preschool tend to deplete the older age's attendance. However, these little ones are still learning about Jesus through song and story. We have both mothers and fathers bringing their children with a smattering of grandparents too.

One mother shared last week that her little boy has been singing one of the God songs all week and asking when music was on again as he wanted to go back. A grandmother shared how one of her grandchildren, who attended mainly music before they went off to school, had sat with a friend at school who was doing time out and read Bible stories to him. The child asked for his own Bible after several times so that he could keep reading for himself.

Scripture tells us that some sow, some water but it is the Holy Spirit that does the reaping. We just need to be faithful and pray for the planting so keep praying with us.

We again thank each and every one of you who help support Mainly Music whether it is through practical, financial or prayer. Your support is valued. Mainly Music is a whole church ministry; we the team are your ambassadors. Thank You. We would appreciate prayer for the team. We have been blessed by the faithfulness of the team members and praise God for them.

We are continuing to seek opportunities to bring Jesus to families in our community. God knows what is going on. He has a plan for His people. We must be on our knees, calling on His name, repenting and He will heal our land. We will remain faithful; will care for the families He has given us and wait for Him to show the way.

Blessings
Joy Watt Team Leader.

SHOUT!!

Contact Details of Leader: Jane Keuning
Phone Number: **Mobile:** 0425 263 763
Email: clankeuning@gmail.com

God has been blessing SHOUT!! this year with more stable numbers coming along, as we have 34 registered on our books (18 children and 16 adults), having an average of 15-20 attending each week.

This year we have been running our program off the leftover GodSpace scripture books and this seems to be received very well by everyone. We have been learning who God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus is. We have our before program activities, hot drinks and once a month meals together where we have heaps of fun learning about our Lord and getting to know each other.

In our future plans for SHOUT!! we would like to see both the children and the adults cultivating a more personal relationship with Christ through doing their own devotions at home. At this stage we will start by placing some online Bible devotions on our Facebook page for the adults/teenagers. We are hoping to eventually get some devotional books for the kids to use at home after we have shown them how to use them at SHOUT!!

We would also like to see some fathers come along and be involved. They seem to be reluctant to do so at this stage, so, we are hoping to have a Father's Day BBQ dinner the week after (10/09) Father's Day to be able to break the ice with them.

Praise the Lord, He is working!

Yours in Christ's service,
Jane Keuning

Special Religious Education (Scripture)

Contact Details of Coordinator: David Gilchrist

Mobile: 0448 431 234

Email: davidgilchrist1968@gmail.com

Our Church joins with the churches in the Brisbane Water Ministers Association to teach Special Religious Education (also known as Scripture) in our local primary schools, of Woy Woy Public School, Ettalong Public School, Woy Woy South Public School and Umina Beach Public School. Scripture is a very important and exciting ministry to our local schools.

I am the coordinator for Scripture on behalf of the Association. I also teach Scripture every Friday morning at Umina Beach Public School, with two other Christian teachers, Jan from Grace Peninsula Church, and Peter from Woy Woy Presbyterian Church. We teach the children practical Christian living from the Bible and introduce the children (many for the first time) to Jesus. The school values Scripture and appreciates the work we do, even though there are many people in the school who are not Christian.

It is often a lonely ministry. We go into the classroom alone. The classroom teacher is occasionally quite ambivalent or even hostile to our message, but the Holy Spirit goes before us. We know you are praying for us.

I would like to thank especially those who help me as Coordinator. Shanalle Pan from Grace Church coordinates Ettalong Public School. Josie Psaila from Connect Church coordinates Woy Woy South Public School. Rosemary Gilham from the Anglican Church coordinates Woy Woy Public School.

Maria Janos has been our treasurer for many years and has been an enormous help paying the bills and reminding the churches on the Peninsula to contribute their share towards the cost of the material. Maria cannot continue doing this, but I am hoping our new Office Manager may be able to help me with this in future.

Please continue to pray for Scripture and all involved to this amazing ministry to our community. If you would like to know more about becoming a Scripture Teacher, please come and see me.

Blessings
David Gilchrist

Men's Ministries

Ministry Group Leader: Graham Checkley

Mobile: 0403 520 278

Email: grajess@optusnet.com.au

Men's Shed

Contact Details of Chaplain: Graham Checkley

Mobile: 0403 520 278

Email: grajess@optusnet.com.au

Men's shed is a great Missionary outreach. There are 40 men registered with an average attendance of 22 twice a week. The Shed is a part of the Australian Men's Shed Association Inc and is one of 13 sheds on the Central Coast.

During the year they have done work for Gosford Council and made 50 hand held crosses for Gosford Hospital. and other work for people in the Community.

Some of the members have attended sessions on Men's Mental Health and Men's Suicide. Two of us are doing a course through Melbourne University on Men's shed mental health.

We have had a short lecture on "What is Required to Organise a Funeral", which the men found very helpful.

Rev Graham Checkley
Chaplain.

Men's Social Committee

Contact Details of Coordinator: Ian Makepeace and Graham Checkley

Mobile: Ian 0411 012 125 Graham 0403 520 278

Email: imakepea@bigpond.net.au grajess@optusnet.com.au

The Men's ministry is going well. We meet every Tuesday morning for Coffee and there are usually 10 men + attending.

Every second month we have a Men's Breakfast, with average attendance of 15 + men.

Some of the men are part of a men's prayer group, praying for 3 men a day.

Rev Graham Checkley
Co-ordinator.

Pastoral Care

Ministry Group Leader: Helen Brooks

Mobile: 0419 613 098

Email: ettalong18@gmail.com

EBC has a most blessed church family where people care about and support each other. It has been a busy year at EBC as our congregation is aging with many no longer able to attend church. Along with this though we do have a number of new people attending regularly.

Most Wednesdays when I am in the office, I contact by phone, email or a card, anyone who has been on the prayer chain that week. Each month folk who are no longer able to attend church are sent a card. All church members are sent a card at least once a year to thank them for all they do and or have done for EBC, as many people do lots of behind-the-scene things: mending and ironing laundered garments for Ministry of Leftovers, cooking cakes and slices or making sandwiches for the Drop In Café. As well, there is the constant maintenance, the gardening, the lawn cutting, the signs for the board etc. Then there are the Elders and Deacons who volunteer their knowledge, energy and time. All these things are organised and carried out by members of EBC.

A number of our members miss attending church but need transport. A team approached these people, and offered lifts, which was appreciated, but the offer was only accepted by one person. Others said they are in the routine and were content with watching EBC church services on YouTube.

Over the past few weeks, a number of people have been delivering meals to people who are in difficult situations. There is a need to streamline this and Melanie, who is a trained Pastoral Care person, has offered to put together training for those involved in this area when she returns from overseas.

There have been a couple of funerals for people from our church during the last month. Caroline managed and, with the help of a team, provided a beautiful afternoon tea for those in attendance. Many of our members have provided food and many have given their time to prepare, serve and clear up afterwards. This is a huge effort for Caroline to organise. The families of the deceased have been most appreciative. Thank you, Caroline.

Connect Groups - Heather manages the Connect Groups.

With many thanks,
Helen Brooks.

Connect Groups and Prayer Triplets

Contact Details of Coordinator: Heather Crawford

Mobile: 0419 297 496

Email: heathercrawford@bigpond.com.au

As at the End of June 2023 we have 12 Connect Groups running across every day of the week except Saturday. This number includes the ongoing Bible School, a married group, an Alpha group and a new Teenager Connect group. The level of attendance in these groups is on average about 90 persons.

Books of the bible studied, timing of groups and frequency of meeting have been varied. We are always open to starting new groups.

We started the year with a briefing/training meeting for all connect group leaders where they could share issues, concerns, highlights etc as a result of this meeting, the library has been updated with a variety of sample study guides for inspiration on what to study and an account has been opened at Cornerstone for the convenience of purchasing bibles and study books for church run programs.

Prayer triplets are continuing to be run with some people meeting now over the phone in place of face-to-face meetings, a trend that started due to the COVID restrictions.

My general support for Connect Groups has been to email information out to leaders, run the meetings, assisting as requested, promoting new attendees and groups to form, communicating with the church leadership, updating promotional material and regularly praying for leaders and groups.

As a church we particularly thank Alma and Noel Mansfield for their 18 months of running and teaching in the Bible School and their support in training up the participants of the Bible School and other outreach participants in discipleship training and how to give a personal testimony. This training had a positive impact, as individuals made their personal testimonies presentations in church as well as when attending the Gin Gin Outreach in late 2022. Their inspirational presentation of Paul's Missionary Journeys has also led to a Church tour being organised for May 2024 for church members to participate in a "Following in the Footsteps of Paul" Journey and preaching series.

I also take the opportunity thank the Connect Group leaders, David Gilchrist and the Elders for their support of me in this role.

Heather Crawford
Connect Group Ministry Leader

Prayer

Contact Details Ministry Leader – Greg Beckenham

Phone Number: 4381 2362

Email: gbeckenham1@bigpond.com

Over the last 12 months the Tuesday morning zoom group continues to meet most Tuesdays. For me this is one the most enjoyable ministries I and Elizabeth have been involved in. It is so good to be in a group that prays and enjoys doing so. The Lord has allowed us to see healings and His provision for many peoples' lives. We continue to pray for our church, it's pastor and family and the many ministries of our church.

Some have spoken to me about their regret at not being able to join the Tuesday morning prayer group, so on Tuesday 25th July we are starting a second zoom prayer meeting from 7pm to 7.30pm. It will have the same format as the morning group.

The pre-service prayer meeting unfortunately is very disappointing in numbers attending, but we will still be praying each Sunday from 8.45am to 9.15am.

I am encouraged to see the after-service prayer time having a good effect and am very, very glad people now have the opportunity for prayer after the wonderful messages the Lord has been speaking through our pastor.

Earlier this year we held 2 seminars to help our church ministry partners and others understand the prayer ministry I still conduct. Both were quite well attended with positive feedback.

One last thing: Graham's initiative for men to pray for other men in our church I believe was truly God inspired and I thank him for what he has done.

Thank you to all the people who have supported this ministry. Our God has done some pretty amazing things in response to your prayers.

Greg Beckenham

Email Prayer Ministry

Contact Details of Coordinator: David Gilchrist

Mobile: 0448 431 234

Email: davidgilchrist1968@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry

Church Lower Hall 8:50 – 9:20am

Contact Details of Coordinator: Greg Beckenham

Phone Number: 4381 2362

Email: gbeckenham1@bigpond.com

Telephone Prayer Chain / Crisis Line

Contact Details of Coordinator: Thelma Minto

Phone Number: 0417 285 736

Email: thelminto@optusnet.com.au

Tuesday Morning Prayer Ministry

On Zoom Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30am

Contact Details of Coordinator: Greg Beckenham

Phone Numbers: 4381 2362

Email: gbeckenham1@bigpond.com

Tuesday Evening Prayer Ministry

On Zoom Tuesdays 7pm – 7:30pm

Welcome

Ministry Group Leader – Sheila Hooper

Mobile: 0414 790 691

Email: paul.sheila.hooper@gmail.com

Each Sunday at the 9.30am service there are two greeters in attendance to welcome everyone as they arrive and to be especially attentive to newcomers. There is also a Welcome table in the foyer with a selection of handouts describing various church ministries and information.

Following easing of Covid restrictions Welcome Lunches have been able to resume. A new format has been adopted where all church attendees are invited; and Pastor David facilitates a “getting to know each other” session. Two lunches have been held in the last 12 months with a great response from our church fellowship. The next lunch is scheduled for 17th September.

There will be a meeting shortly for those who serve on the Welcome Roster; and a new Welcome Handout is being put together.

A big thankyou to the team of welcomers and to those who have provided delicious food for the lunches.

I have been thrilled to see our whole fellowship is reaching out to make visitors and newcomers feel welcome.

Sheila Hooper.

Welcome Lunches

Contact Details of Coordinator: Sheila & Paul Hooper

Mobile: Sheila 0414 790 691 **Paul** 0414 256 750

Email: paul.sheila.hooper@gmail.com

Please see above in the Welcome report.

Kitchen & Morning Teas

Contact Details of Coordinator: Irene Makepeace

Mobile Number: 0411 012 125

Email: lavendermake@hotmail.com

Everything is pretty much back to normal in the kitchen.

I did a thorough clean over four afternoons

Irene Makepeace

Women's Ministries

LIFT - Ladies in Fellowship Together

Contact Details of Coordinator: Marion Edwards

Mobile: 0401 344 814

Email: almaz24@bigpond.com

LIFT - Ladies in Fellowship Together

On the first Friday of each month a group of 10 - 12 ladies meet for lunch at either The Everglades, Woy Woy or Yi an Chinese Restaurant in Woy Woy.

It is always an enjoyable time of fellowship and all ladies are very welcome to join us.

Marion Edwards

Pastimes

Contact Details of Coordinator: Sheila Hooper

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Pastimes has made a great comeback following our lengthy COVID shutdowns. Our group meets weekly during term time, on Friday mornings from 10-12.

Margaret Crawford facilitates a very popular cardmaking group and I facilitate a scrapbooking group. Many people bring their own craft work along to work on in a social atmosphere. At present we have knitters, crocheters, diamond art workers and artistic colourers.

In the last year we have had additional activities, such as morning teas at cafes and workshops featuring new crafts. We finished 2022 with a Christmas morning tea at the church.

A \$4.00 fee is charged to cover morning tea costs, support for our sponsorship child and mission partners.

Heather Crawford has coordinated weekly speakers who bring a short talk to the group with our themes for this year being Books, Travel and Food (with a Christian emphasis). Lee Oehm ensures everyone's birthday is celebrated.

There has been an average attendance of 23 crafters in the first two terms of this year.

Many thanks to the Keuning family who set up our tables and chairs each week.

Sheila Hooper

(on behalf of the Pastimes Committee – Maureen Moreland, Lee Oehm, Wendy Antar and Maria Janos)

Women's Social Group

Contact Details of Coordinator: Margy Gilchrist

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Email: margy1@internode.on.net

This financial year we added a new activity to our Women's Social Calendar with a retreat at Bethshan, Wyee, organised by Jane Keuning. Ruth Meyers, a retired missionary, was the speaker, inspiring all of us who attended. It was encouraging to meet women from many other churches on the Central Coast. This August we are organising our women's retreat at Bethshan again. A number of our women are going just for the day on Saturday and are quite looking forward to it.

Last December we held our annual Women's Gingerbread House making night. We limited the numbers to help reduce the spread of COVID and had a very successful night. Melanie de Jager was our speaker and she gave a fantastic message to the women and kids who attended.

In March we had a Women's Breakfast at Daley's Kitchen with about 20 women present. Some of our women brought friends and we all had a great time of chatting and laughing.

Our Women's Social Events are always such fun. It is a great way to get to know other women from the church. Please don't hesitate to contact me for more information on Social Events, or to suggest an event that you might like to organise for our church women.

Worship

Worship Coordinator for 9.30am Service: Joey Arrua

Mobile: 0432 838 765

Email: josepharrua@gmail.com

It's been a long and interesting year for the Worship Team at Ettalong Baptist Church. The Worship Team encompasses everyone involved in making Worship happen at EBC, including the musicians and the AV Operators.

Over this year, the Worship Team re-emphasised a focus on the people that make up the EBC congregation and the Team itself. That outlook has really shifted how and why we do things. We revised the way that we roster and assemble our team, to make sure that people have space to take care of themselves however they need. Also, by instituting new systems to seek consensus in planning out each week, month, and year, each member of the Worship Team has more of a say over where God is leading Ettalong Baptist Church regarding worship.

The Worship Team also seeks to improve the online experience. The online attendees make up approximately 25% of the congregation each week. The livestream has provided the Worship Team with an opportunity to better serve those with hearing issues, or who are immunocompromised, or unwell, or too distant, or have negative trauma around churches, or any number of other difficulties. It's a hugely rewarding endeavour that God has equipped us to continue to work at, and improve.

Throughout the year, we've also had some updates in our equipment. The old VGA AV wiring to the projector failed, so Geoff and I, along with plenty of incredibly kind volunteers, installed a new HDMI cable that should future-proof our in-wall cabling for decades to come. We switched to using an electric keyboard, instead of the grand piano, for Sunday Services, so that it comes across online, and doesn't feedback in the middle of a sermon - no one likes the deafening screech of a speaker.

We've also introduced new technology at the back desk, drastically reducing electrical interference at the AV Desk. This massively improved the quality of sound on the EBC livestreams, and also saved our AV Operators a lot of earaches and headaches.

Overall, the technologies introduced have resolved a bunch of issues that have been ongoing, and I'm glad to say that Ettalong Baptist Church's AV equipment is in its most stable and user-friendly condition in years.

As the 9:30AM Service Worship Co-Ordinator, I'm very happy to say that I've accomplished what I was hired to do a little over a year ago. There are still a few equipment updates still to go. It'll be great to have music stands that aren't falling apart!

Ultimately, as the Church continues to seek a new Worship Co-Ordinator, my future in the role is primarily focused on keeping things running smoothly from week to week, and preparing for potential demographic change that will inevitably occur, whether soon, or years from now. Either way, I'm looking forward to whatever God has in store next!

I'd just like to finish off by thanking all of the wonderful members of the Worship Team. I thank the musicians for their time, skills, and passion for music as a form of worship. I thank the AV Operators for their commitment to keeping things running, and their willingness to learn and adapt to new technologies, and new situations. I thank those who support us through offering lifts, emotional support, advice, and prayer. Finally, I thank God, who has provided us with so much over the past year, and given us plenty of reasons to praise Him

Joseph Arrua

Audio Visual / Sound Desk

Contact Details of Acting Coordinator: Joey Arrua

Mobile: 0432 838 765

Email: josepharrua@gmail.com

Please see the Worship report on the last page

Communion Report

Contact Details for 9.30am: Helen Aspland & Merle Shumack

Phone Numbers: Helen 0419 983 256 Merle 0419 411 974

The Communion service is held once a month, on the 1st Sunday of the month during our 9.30am service.

Youth

AXIS Youth Group

It has been a difficult year for AXIS, culminating with the difficult decision that it needed to close for a time. However, we have some exciting plans for the future.

We were blessed again with some very committed leaders. Lizzie Gilchrist, Ian Makepeace, Liz Edminson, Joey Arrua, Pat Brophy, Darran Adams, and several other helpers at various times have been so committed to our AXIS group. They have together run an excellent program which ministered to many tweens, and teenagers.

A highlight of the year was the AXIS Christmas concert. The kids put on an excellent variety performance with many families and church members attending. Thank you especially to Pat for all his hard work and amazing effort, and to all who helped him to make the concert such an incredible success.

Unfortunately, this year a number of our leaders have been unable to continue to **serve** with AXIS for various reasons. This has left us very short on experienced leaders, **and** with no female leaders. For this reason we have had to pause AXIS at the end of second term, and consider what can we do. We have advised the Youth of another Kids Club and Youth Group in the area that they could attend.

Janine, Irene and Ian Makepeace, with assistance from Joey are commencing a Connect Group / Bible Study for older teenagers, on Friday evenings. I am so excited about this new group. I know it will be a great blessing to all who attend.

On the first Friday of each month, I invite you to meet at the church to pray for our youth. We are meeting from 7pm to 8pm. All are welcome.

We hope to find some Youth Leader training in the future that people from our church can take part in, so that we can further our youth work in various ways in the future.

Thank you for your love for our youth.
David Gilchrist

Local Welfare and Mission Outreach

Church Sign / Wayside Pulpit

Contact Details of Coordinator: Geoff Toon
Mobile: 0405 020 649
Email: geoffreytoon@bigpond.com

We have continued through the year to change the sign, at least weekly to encourage people passing by to make a point of looking for this week's message. We try to provide a message that will promote a smile of recognition in the reader. Most of our audience do not share our faith, so we provide a wide-ranging style of message. Some ring very true with Christians, other are more multi-faith oriented, some show connections with our community through sporting events, and, of course, we promote EBC events and activities.

The seeds for the messages come from many sources: the internet, EBC people, current social events. Our challenge is to fit the idea into four lines of 13 ½ characters in black or red.

We hear comments from various readers through personal contact, either direct or through EBC folk. Some drivers going round the roundabout on Sunday mornings give us a toot and a wave, walkers stop to read the sign in progress and chat.

It is, ideally, a two-person task to change the sign. One person is needed to lower and raise the sign and be tall enough to reach the top row. As it is a two-handed job to slot the letter into the frame, it is good to have a second person to hand them one at a time to the taller person. The wind is quite good at spreading the message around, but not in the intended way!

John MacFarlane has been the main assistant and fill in, but it is always good for others to join in this ministry of reaching out to out broader community.

Geoff Toon
Wayside Pulpit Editor

Carols and Nativity Service

Ettalong Baptist Church ran a Nativity Service for children, and our annual Community Carols at the church on Sunday 18 December.

We started at 5pm with our family Nativity Service. The church was full with families, mostly from Mainly Music and SHOUT!!. The children acted out the Christmas story as it was retold very simply.

We continued with a family BBQ at 6pm.

We had our community Carols at the church from 7pm. Thank you to our music team who led the carols which were enjoyed by many from our church and ministries connected with our church.

David Gilchrist

Crossroads Counselling

Contact Details of Counsellor: Meg Toon

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2022-23 has continued with little change for Crossroads Counselling, which continues to provide face-to-face or on-line Clinical Counselling to a wide range of people from the community, plus Pastoral and Professional Supervision to clergy and allied health professionals on two days per week, plus face-to-face Music Therapy.

Supervision client numbers have increased with Pastors from the Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Salvation Army churches being supported in their roles and I feel humbled to be able to provide professional support for Ministers in their complex work. It is still a puzzle for many people that a female non-cleric can provide such a service to clergy. I explain that my role is not to supervise the way clergy conduct services, but instead to assist them maintaining their wellbeing by having a person who they meet with regularly and with whom they can discuss ethical and other difficult challenges that arise in their day-to-day ministry, within a confidential professional relationship.

My professional memberships continue as Registered Clinical Counsellor and Supervisor with the Christian Counsellors of Australia Association, Registered Clinical Counsellor with the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia, Registered Music Therapist and Supervisor with the Australian Music Therapy Association and Registered Nurse (Counsellor) on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

By necessity this practice continues to be a fee-paying service in order to finance the significant ongoing professional registration expenses, including Professional Indemnity and Personal Liability Insurance, Association Registration, and the required Professional Supervision and Professional Development. However, people from all walks of life are welcome and a greatly subsidised rate is offered to people with Pension and Health Care Cards and further subsidies are possible on request.

I appreciate and value being able to contribute to Ettalong Baptist Church and the community in this practice and although thoughts have arisen of retiring, each time that I bring this before The Lord, He brings a new avenue or new clients to me! Now, having completed my professional registration processes for 2023, I hope to continue to provide this service for at least another year.

Margaret (AKA Meg) Toon

Christmas Hampers

Last Christmas we again gave out Christmas Hampers as an outreach of love to our community. Christmas hampers are given not just to those who are in financial need, but also to those who are doing it tough in other ways, who are lonely, or who just need a bit of encouragement and love. Church members nominate people who might value receiving a Christmas hamper and they have the joy of delivering these hampers. Those who receive the hampers often respond with surprise, gratitude and thanks. Some have been deeply touched to receive such a precious gift.

Last year we received many generous donations of items for our Christmas Hampers. We delivered deliver 21 large Christmas hampers and 13 smaller gift bags.

It is such a joy that we are able to bless so many people, and families, with these gifts at Christmas time. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.

David Gilchrist

Ministry of Leftovers

Contact Details of Coordinator: Caroline Murphy

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Ministry of Leftovers is a weekly outreach running a market, mostly in the Upper Hall and serving a free cuppa in the Lower Hall. We operate Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm by volunteers.

This ministry is growing steadily and plans are to continue maintaining the steady flow of work being done.

Caroline

National and Global Mission

Ministry Group Leader – Thelma Minto

Missionary Committee

Contact Details of Coordinator: Thelma Minto

Phone Number: 43412510

Email: thelminto@optusnet.com.au

Committee Members: Thelma Minto, Heather Crawford, Paul Hooper, Dennis Arkapaw, Joy & Robert Watt, Kerrie & Peter Brown

We have a committee of 8 persons now that Kerrie and Peter Brown have joined us with Thelma Minto as the Chairperson of this group, Heather Crawford as the Secretary and Paul Hooper looking after the finances, plus Joy and Rob Watt and Dennis Arkapaw as Executive members.

Again, this year we continued to support 10 missionary families or individuals from 7 different countries namely Kenya, Ukraine, Jordan, Asia, Paraguay, India, and Australia, which covers a variety of individual and Mission Related Organisations.

During Mission Month in May and during the year we have provided updates to the congregation on all the activities and prayer points for our Missionaries.

We have raised the money needed to support these missionaries from the generous donations from individuals from our church. Also, we have organised and run a variety of social and fund-raising events, e.g. we ran a Spring Fair and are organising another one for Spring this year, had a garage sale thanks to Beth and Bev Wykes, held a High Tea in May, a Band concert in June. We sell jams thanks to Joy Watt, and Lee Oehm kindly runs a craft stall for us on Ministry of Leftover days. We were in a position to send extra funds this year to support all our missionaries facing difficult times because of the results of the COVID etc. The Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our fund raising and Fair activities.

An extensive ongoing prayer and personal financial support for the Ukraine has occurred, as our missionaries there have kept serving during the war with Russia, by building houses, providing refugee support and supplying food and clothing etc. We thank the Axis Youth Group and their leaders who organised and ran an impressive Concert in December last year and raised over \$1400 to provide further refugee support there in the Ukraine.

Please keep praying for our missionaries and we thank you all, as well as David Gilchrist our Pastor and our Elders and Deacons for their support.

Heather Crawford
Secretary

Our Missionary Partners We Continue to Support:

Andrew & Oksana Ford - Working in the Ukraine with "Youth With A Mission". They also have a special mission with local orphans.

Beatrix Watofa - serving with Pioneers. Beatrix works wherever God leads her to spread the Gospel through translating and distributing Christian films & using the media, in South East Asia.

Benwel Asiago - Working in Kisii in Kenya. His main support is through our church through "skills for life" registered charity, supporting Mango Tree Academy, to educate many children who would not otherwise be able to receive an education, or to hear the good news of Salvation. He is also pastor to several churches.

B.J. David – INDIA. We have been supporting him for over 20 years as he faithfully ministers to surrounding villages. His son, Kumara Bachala has for many years also provided education and support to children who are orphans or only have one parent. This ministry is currently being reviewed by authorities and will be reassessed. They have mainly been supported by Pastimes.

Clinton & Roslyn Webb – Working in the middle east with the Druz people in Lebanon since 2002, who serve with Pioneers

John & Angela Wilmot - Working in Newman, W.A. with the local aboriginal emerging church.

Mauricio & Michelle Reyes - Working in Paraguay, doing amazing translation work with the Mbya Guarani indigenous people. Their teenage children have adapted remarkably with life in villages

Tobias and Heather Houston - Working in Mozambique, translating the gospel into the local language. They serve with Baptist Mission Australia.

YouthLife REM - A local group of churches aiming to provide Religious Education in our secondary colleges. Currently under review. Contact Paul Hooper for more information.

The Coffee Shop Ministry in South East Asia - We have supported this venture for many years through Baptist Mission Australia. for training and an outreach to the community. The missionary couple are training up local Christians to run the Café.

Fairs

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Please see the above Missionary Committee report

Other Ministries the Church Supports

Our church supports many other ministries and organisations including Angels without Borders, Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree, Baptist World Aid Australia, Crossover Australia, and Gosford Hospital to name a few.

We also ran Alpha.

Samaritan's Christmas Boxes

Contact Details of Coordinator: Beth Wykes

Mobile: 0431 749 743

Email Address: bethwykes25@gmail.com

Once again Ettalong Baptist Church participated in this exciting ministry, by being an area pick-up and drop-off collection point for the OCC boxes.

Many individuals as well as Mainly Music families, Pastimes attendees, and for the first time people, at the Spring Fair filled boxes to delight children in the appointed countries for 2022. A total of 96 boxes were displayed in our church service in October and prayed over before being transported for distribution.

The boxes are filled with items for personal hygiene, school and craft supplies, clothing and accessories, toys and special things. Also included is a booklet called The Greatest Journey, which offers the children the opportunity to participate in a discipleship course explaining the gospel.

We look forward to partnering again this year in bringing joy and hope to children wherever the boxes are shipped.

Beth Wykes