



Thank you, Jane, for today's photo.

Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 23rd November 2023

9.30am Service This Sunday 26th November:

This Sunday we will be continuing our series on Resolving Everyday Conflict.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/gVfi2AaYu3c?feature=share>

After the 9.30am service we have an opportunity for prayer or praise at the front of the church. Come to the stage after the service. Greg and Elizabeth and others would love to pray with you.

Alternatively please ask for prayer by leaving a request on our website, or use the cards on the Welcome Table. <https://ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/contact/>

Church Congregational Meeting. 11am to 1pm, All welcome.

Ministry Partners will be asked to vote on the proposed changes to our Policy for Hire / Use Of Church Premises by outside organisations. These motions were distributed to Ministry Partners several weeks ago. A printed copy of the motions are on the Notice Board in the Downstairs Hall. There will also be some other important proposals to vote on, such as our Church Budget.

Please remember only Ministry Partners can vote but everyone is encouraged to attend and contribute.

4pm Service: SHOUT!!

Join us from 3.30pm for activities and refreshments, and our service from 4pm.

Christmas Services:

Sunday 17 December, 5pm - Families Nativity Service

Sunday 17 December, 6pm - BBQ Dinner and Children's games

Sunday 17 December, 7.30pm – Carols in the church auditorium with a visit from Father Christmas.

Sunday 24 December, 9.30am – Christmas Eve Service

Monday 25 December, 9.30am – Christmas Day Service

Christmas Hampers For Our Community:

Every year Ettalong Baptist Church ministers to our community by giving Christmas hampers. Christmas hampers are given to people in our community who are in need, and to those who might just need a bit of encouragement at Christmas. We hope that they will be a reminder of God's great love, and an opportunity for us to show God's love to others.

Please start praying and considering people you know that may value a hamper.

Please start placing your gifts for hampers on the table at the back of the church auditorium (a Christmas tree for the table is coming!!!). Please give generously. We need Christmas food and gifts and general grocery items. Alternatively you can give money which we can use to purchase goods for the hampers. Please DO NOT place second hand items under the tree.

Christmas Hampers – Dates To Remember:

Now:

Please nominate people for hampers. There is a form attached to this newsletter that you can do this with.

Please bring in gifts of non perishable food, new toys or other gifts to place under the Christmas tree for the hampers or consider making a financial donation towards the cost of the hampers. See David Gilchrist.

Sunday 10 December:

Last day for nominations for hampers.

Last day to give gifts for hampers

Wednesday 13 December:

2pm Assembling Hampers. We need some volunteers to help assemble hampers. Please let David Gilchrist know if you can assist.

Once the hampers are assembled you can deliver the hampers to the people you nominated.

Angel Tree 2023:

A Ministry of Prison Fellowship NSW. Linda Strapps is coordinating this appeal in our church.

Prison Fellowship Australia is asking for help to give a gift to children on behalf of their parents who are in correctional facilities this Christmas, to remind the child they are not forgotten and thus strengthening the child/parent bond.

1. Prison Chaplains contact prisoners who wish to send a present to their children.
2. They receive permission from carers of the children, and ask the child "what gift they would like for Christmas."
3. Local children's names are then given to us. We have the opportunity of giving money to purchase the gifts on behalf of the children's parents. Volunteers then purchase wrap and deliver gifts.

Would you like to donate \$30 to purchase a gift to show the children they are missed and still loved? This love flows from our church to the children and the carers. Donations are required now.

Two ways to donate \$30:

- Hand the money to Linda Strapps, in person.
- Give the money by electronic transfer. Pay the money into the Ettalong Baptist Church Account (as described under giving). In the description write "**Angel Tree.**" Let Linda Strapps know you have donated and she will organise to have the money sent to Prison Fellowship.

To find out more please see Linda Strapps, Phone 0417404381.

LIFT Christmas Lunch:

Approximate numbers are needed for the LIFT Christmas lunch on Friday 1st December. If you haven't already told Marion that you'll be attending, please phone or text by Wednesday 29th November. Marions phone number is 0401 344 814

Thank you.

Men's Christmas Dinner:

Our Christmas celebration dinner will be held at Yi An Chinese restaurant in Woy Woy, on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm. (\$30 banquet). Contact Ian Makepeace or Graham Checkley.

Women's Gingerbread House Making Night – Monday, 4 December 2023:

Please be praying for our annual Gingerbread House Making night. Nearly all our participants do not attend any church or are connected with other ministries in our church. Some of our participants come every year and some who are coming for the first time.

Please pray for our speaker, Merrie Gilchrist, that God would be guiding her words. Please pray for all our participants, and for the night as a whole that it would be a night of great fun and without incident.

As we will have about 80 people in attendance, if you can provide a plate of Christmas supper food that you could bring along next Sunday the 3rd, please see Margy as she would be most grateful.

Also, if there are a few people who can stay back after morning tea next Sunday 3 December, who can help Margy set up all the tables and chairs in preparation for the next night she would be most grateful for that too.

New Years Eve Fun and Fundraiser:

New Years Eve, 7pm we are holding a buffet dinner and a video movie night in the downstairs hall. Please let Heather Crawford know for catering purposes that you will be joining us. Dinner and Movie \$20 each. All money received will go to help Nat make it to 2024 Walking in the footsteps of Paul tour.

January Craft Preparation Day:

This January we are again holding a craft preparation day for the Spring Fair. Saturday 13th of January 2024, 9am to 2pm in the Downstairs Hall. See Heather for details or to register interest. All materials etc. is supplied and morning Tea and lunch are provided. All welcome.

Old Greeting Cards Needed:

Maria Janos is recycling old greeting cards into new cards. Please donate your used greeting cards. You can leave them in the container on the cupboard in the church foyer.

Pensioner Postage Stamp Donations:

The cost of postage is quite expensive. A number of pensioners in the church are able to buy Concession Stamps. With a free Australia Post Concession account, pensioners pay just 60c per stamp, instead of \$1.20. You can buy up to 50 stamps per year, in booklets of 5 for \$3.

Click here to find out more (or ask at your post office): <https://auspost.com.au/sending/stamps/concession-stamps>

If you receive this newsletter or cards from the church office by mail, and you have spare concession stamps you can donate to help defer the costs of postage, it would be much appreciated. Your gift of concession stamps can be given to the Reception Office at any time.

Skills For Life Christmas Lights Fundraiser:

Skills For Life raises support for Mango Tree Academy in Kissi, Kenya.

Tuesday 19th December, 6pm

Christmas Lights and Decorations Tour.

Includes delicious sausage sizzle.

Limit 20 people on the bus.

\$30 per person, which covers bus hire and fuel.

Contact Les on 0412 866 513

Sunday Morning Prayer Group 8.45am to 9.15am:

A small group of people meet to pray each Sunday morning before the 9.30am service at the back of the Downstairs Hall. They would love you to join them and to pray particularly for our worship services.

Zoom Prayer Groups:

Tuesday morning at 10am and Tuesday evening at 7pm.

See Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.

Ettalong Baptist Church Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact:

Pastor—David Gilchrist, or Elder—Jane Keuning

Find important Church Documents on our Website Documents page:

If you haven't already go to our documents page on our website at: [Ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au / documents](http://Ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents)

You can download and print documents, or simply read and fill in documents online!

Unsubscribe / Subscribe:

If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter by snail mail, please let the church office know.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter by email, please reply to this email with the word UNSUBSCRIBE and we will remove you from this email list.

Giving:

As Christians, we believe it is especially important that we give financially to support God's church. You may give your weekly offering using the following methods:

1). Through direct electronic transfer. You can do this using online banking or ask your bank teller to set up an electronic transfer for you using the bank details below.

2). Deposit your offering directly into the church account at any branch of the Westpac Bank.

Our account details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church

BSB Number: 032 527, Account Number: 350 062

3). Use the box at the main entrance door to the auditorium for cash or cheques.



Christmas Hampers

Every year Ettalong Baptist Church ministers to our community by giving Christmas hampers. This year we are planning to distribute hampers again. Most hampers will be about the size of one or two shopping bags. Some may be bigger.

Hampers are given to people nominated by you. People you could nominate to receive a hamper include:

- ⇒ People in financial need.
- ⇒ People who are facing difficult experiences.
- ⇒ People who have been unwell.
- ⇒ People who are lonely.
- ⇒ People who need a bit of encouragement.
- ⇒ People who simply need to be shown God's love in a practical way

Please use the form over the page to nominate people for hampers.

Join in the spirit of Christmas by bringing along donations of Christmas fare and basic non perishable food items. Some ideas for item's you could donate include:

- ◇ Tin foods
- ◇ Christmas cake or pudding
- ◇ Jams and other spreads
- ◇ Variety cereal packets
- ◇ Jellies, nuts, lollies, chips
- ◇ Savoury and sweet biscuits
- ◇ Tea, coffee, soft drink
- ◇ Small toys for children
- ◇ Books
- ◇ Toiletry gift packs or other small gifts.

All gifts must be new. We cannot give second hand goods, or opened packets of food. Packets of food and drink must contain a list of ingredients and a Best Before or Use By Date where appropriate.

You may like to contribute money instead. The money will be used to buy items we need for the hampers.

Have a blessed Christmas,

David Gilchrist

2023 Hamper Nomination:

Please place your nomination in the Welcome Table response box in the church foyer, or email david@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

Your Name, Phone Number and Email address:

Name of the person or family you would like to nominate for a hamper. Please include all names of the people in the family. Please include approximate ages and sexes. Please also include if the family has any special pets.

How do you know the person you are nominating and what is the reason why you think they would appreciate a hamper:

Does the person or family have any special dietary requirements we should know about? (We can't guarantee that we can cater for these requirements but we will do our best to produce a hamper that is suitable for them).

Hampers will be available for delivery from Thursday 14 December. Please deliver hampers to the people you have nominated before Christmas day or speak to David Gilchrist if you require assistance to deliver the hamper.