



Thank you, Les Baker, for your photo this week.

Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 15th February 2024

From The Pastor: Are You Serving God or Money?

If God told you to give something away and you said, “God, I could give anything else away, but not that,” then you don’t own that thing—it owns you. Luke 16:13 says, “No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money.” You’ve got to decide whom or what you’re going to serve, and your giving will reflect your decision. If God is Lord of your life, then he needs to be Lord of your wallet too.

Pastor Rick Warren, author of the Purpose Driven Life, tells the story of a wealthy man who gave very generously to Christian causes. But it hadn’t always been that way for him. Years ago, he had met with a financial planner. After they had talked for a while, the financial planner took a sheet of paper and drew a box. Outside of the box, he drew two things: a dollar sign representing money and a cross representing Christ. He said, “I hear two things vying for your attention. I can’t help you plan your life until you tell me which of these things you want in the centre of that box, which represents your life.” The wealthy man thought about it for a moment and then said, “I want Christ at the centre of my life.” That was a turning point—that was when he started investing in eternity.

If someone drew a box representing your life and asked what was in the centre of it, what would you say? Would you place a cross or a dollar sign inside the box? Does your bank statement support your answer? You can say that something holds first place in your life, but the way you spend your time and money reveals the truth. When it comes to your finances, you have to make two key decisions: First, who will be your master? Second, where you will put your money—in eternity or in the here and now?

Jesus said,

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:20–21

God doesn’t need your money. He wants what it represents: your heart. You can show God that he has your whole heart by surrendering control of your money to him. Commit today to giving what he tells you to give in service to him and others.

Blessings

Pastor David

This Sunday @ 9.30am

After the 9.30am service is an opportunity for prayer at the front of the church with Jessie and Graham.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/q-hnNBao2Lw?si=z8E2Djnu0eqGV9GI>

4pm SHOUT (join us from 3.30pm for refreshments and activities):

This Sunday afternoon we are looking for answers to the question "How Do I Make Good Choices?"

Connect Group Leaders Meeting Lunch:

There is to be a meeting of all Connect group leaders, and or anyone who would like to lead or co-lead a group in 2024, to be held this Sunday 18th February after morning tea. Partners welcome to come too. Lunch will be supplied. An agenda will be sent out shortly. Please rsvp to Heather. (0419 297 496)

Men's Breakfast This Saturday 17th February 2024

The first Men's Breakfast for 2024 will be held on Saturday 17/2/24 at BBF Cafe (Woy Woy) at 8.00am. RSVP today Graham Checkley or Ian Makepeace if you are attending. The remaining dates for 2024 are 20/4, 15/6, 17/8 & 19/10.

Church Meeting 11am Sunday 25th February 2024 All Welcome

Minutes from the Church meeting in November, are on the noticeboard in downstairs hall.

Safe Church Records:

Could all Ministry Leaders please give the office all registration forms, membership forms, rolls, etc. from 2023 to be stored (as per our policies and protocols). If you have any questions, please see Pastor David.

Thank you – David and Lynette.

Resolving Everyday Conflict Study: All Welcome:

Biblical answers for a common problem. Starts Friday 23 February and runs for 8 weeks (with a break for Good Friday). Fridays, 4.30 to 5.45pm, in the Hill Hall. See David Gilchrist if you are interested.

Congratulations Jim and Ruth!

What a glorious day Jimmy and I were given on 11th February, our Wedding Day! This was due to God's graciousness to us. We humbly thank our Lord and Saviour for being with us each step of the way. Special thanks to dear Les Baker, our well-known photographer and friend. What a blessing to have that photographic addition to our scene in the church. Also, a big thank you to Joey Arrua, Wendy Whiteman for the vocals and to Fran Kendall for accompanying. Meg gave a lovely rendition on her flute.

And now to our most important friends, visitors and relations (including members of the Cove Village), a big big thank you to you all who were excited for us and showed marvellous support. Some of you are far from well. A special prayer for you all who stepped aside and joined in our God given joy. Never be surprised what God can do. What he's done for others, he can do for you. Even what he did for us!

God Bless you all! Loving wishes and blessings – Jimmy and Ruth Chamberlain.

Condolences:

Our condolences to Maureen Moreland whose father passed away this week. We are praying for you at this difficult time.

Bible Study at Peninsula Village

At present, Sheila and Heather lead the group on the first & third Wednesday of each month, 2pm-2:45pm.

Both Sheila and Heather will be away in June and are asking for 1-2 people from the Church to fill in for them whilst they are away. The Village require volunteers to complete paperwork and have Police Record Check (The Village pay for this. Study material is available. Please contact Sheila Hooper.

4x4 Prayer: From the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT:

This year we are focusing our prayer life across the Baptist movement in:

- 4 seasons (Summer, Autumn, Winter, and Spring), focusing on
- 4 spotlights (Health, Justice, Leadership and Mission) in
- 4 spaces (as individuals, churches, regions, and movement).

4x4 Prayer Nights:

Once each season, we'll be meeting online to spend some time praying from wherever you are, across all the regions of our movement. We'll focus on that season's spotlight as well as bringing to God all that is happening in our 4 spaces. Put these times in your diaries and register by following the links here:

<https://nswactbaptists.org.au/4x4/>

4x4 Prayer Calendar:

This summer season our prayer spotlight is 'health'. See our calendar here:

<https://nswactbaptists.org.au/4x4/> (about half way down the page).

As you pray through the daily prompts, you'll see an emphasis on asking God to develop us as individuals, churches, regions and as a whole movement towards greater health, seeking seek to be a movement of 1000 healthy churches in a generation.



Spring Fair Preparation.

1. Spring Fair Plants.

Autumn is nearly upon us and it's time to trim up those plants, bushes in the garden, and divide and repot.

Don't forget cuttings can be struck from those trimmings, ready for the Spring Fair!

If you need any help with pots or potting mix, just contact Joy on 0417443372, and/ cuttings into water and bring to Church and Joy will strike them. Thank you for your support. Joy

2. Large Shoe Boxes. Heather and Beth would like to acquire some larger than normal size shoe boxes for the Spring Fair, for sale of the Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse. If you have them at home now, or if you purchase boots or large runners this year, please keep and give these boxes to Heather or Beth.

3. The roster of volunteers has been placed on the large Hall notice board. and remember it is never too early to sign up for God's service in this way. Thankyou.

Zoom Prayer Groups.

Tuesday morning group 10am

Tuesday evening group 7pm.

See Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.

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.

Giving:

As Christians, we believe it is especially important that we give financially to support God's church. Prayerfully consider and budget what God would have you give.

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.

Youth Life Op Shop: Volunteers Needed:

The Op Shop (*291 West Street Umina*) desperately needs volunteers in the shop (three volunteers per shift would be ideal). If you could spare 4 hours a week, fortnight, or monthly it would be greatly appreciated. There are two shifts to choose from. Morning - 9am-1pm or Afternoon 12:30pm-4:30pm
Please come into the store or contact Sheila Hooper. on 0414 790 691

Ministry Of Leftovers Market: Volunteers Needed:

Caroline is looking for volunteers to work in the upstairs market. Ideally, the shop needs three volunteers every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9am-2pm. If you can help for a few hours a week, please see Caroline at the Ministry of Leftovers about this.

Caroline is not needing any more donations for the Ministry of Leftovers Market at this time but would love to see you there. We particularly need volunteers who are able to help sort through our donations of hardware and toys, as they need to be checked, cleaned and priced ready for our shop.

Prayer Partners/Triplets for 2024:

Several years ago, we introduced the concept of prayer partners or triplets. These proved to be a real blessing for our church. Several groups are still functioning. Heather is keen to reintroduce these, so if anyone would like to either re-establish their group or form a new prayer partner/triplet for 2024 please let her know email heatherlcrawford@bigpond.com Phone: 0419 297 496 . There are brochures in the church foyer on the concept and how to start such a group.

Italian Pasta Making Class.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make Pasta like the Italians? Well now is your opportunity as a Traditional Pasta Class is to be held in our hall, on Saturday 2nd March 2024, 2.30pm to 4pm. You will not only learn and make your own pasta, from two Home Economists but you will have the opportunity to see a cookery demonstration on some sauces to enhance your Pasta. As a bonus, you will sample a small dish of pasta and sauce and, then take your own Pasta home.

This class will be run for those 18 years of age and over but later in the year we will also run a teenager's class.

This is a fund raiser for Kisii so please rsvp to Heather by 17th February as spaces are limited. Cost to be paid in advance is \$30 per person.

Lynette's Baptism Sunday 25th February 2024 3:30pm All Welcome

On the 25th of February, our afternoon service 'SHOUT' will be at Patonga Creek, to witness Lynette's Baptism. Sausage sizzle provided afterwards in the child's playground. Flyer with details and map attached.

Ettalong Baptist Church Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact:

Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone 0448 431 234) or Elder—Jane Keuning (phone 0425 263 763)

Find important Church Documents on our Website Documents page:

If you haven't already go to our documents page on our website at:

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

<https://ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents/>

Note From the Office:

If you would like anything added to future Newsletters, please send any notices to me at this email address (Lynette), office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

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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 All to this email with the word UNSUBSCRIBE and we will remove you from this email list.