



*Our Dream*

## Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

From The Pastor: A prayer for the new year:

### Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup> How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.  
<sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore.

The psalmist states that harmony among God's people is pleasant and precious. Harmony is important because:

- ❖ It brings glory to God. He is our focus, not ourselves and our own desires;
- ❖ His church makes a positive example to the world and helps draw others to the Lord;
- ❖ We are cooperating as God's people giving a foretaste of heaven;
- ❖ Because there is less tension to sap our energy it renews and revitalizes ministry. We become excited with what the Lord is doing, rather than depressed with what we are not doing.

Living in harmony does not mean that we will agree on everything. God loves diversity, even among his people. There are many opinions among God's people. But we must agree on our purpose in life—he is our Lord and we work together for Him. Our outward expression of harmony will reflect our inward harmony of purpose.

Expensive oil was used by Moses to anoint Aaron as the first high priest of Israel (Exodus 29:7) and to dedicate all the priests to God's service. Christ has made us all priests as Christians. When we make harmony our priority, it becomes like our anointing oil, showing that we are dedicated to serving God wholeheartedly.

As God has laid upon our hearts, may we be a church of one mind, one body and one voice.

Blessings David.

## This Sunday @ 9.30am

The church is not simply a building, a club, a business, or a community organization. First and foremost, the church is the body of Christ. Each person who follows Jesus is a member of that body and is vitally important in the functioning of a healthy church.

Christ calls us to serve him. So many people sacrifice so many hours of time, money, skills, etc., into his church. They give their best. Many do so without anyone knowing or making a fuss. They do it simply because they love Jesus.

During our 9.30am service we want to say thank you. Thank you to all of those who give so much. We also want to look forward excitedly to the new year and pray that we will continue to serve Christ faithfully as his church here at Ettalong Baptist.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/live/T3FFhX4KGdY?feature=share>

After the 9.30am service is an opportunity for prayer at the front of the church...

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

This Sunday afternoon we are looking for answers to the question "Who Is God?"

## Next Sunday @ 9.30am:

We will be speaking about how "A Chord of Three Strands Is Not Easily Broken." During the service we are excited that Jim Chamberlain and Ruth Gardner have asked if they can be married during the service so they can share their joy with all of us. Please come early as the church will be full for this special celebration.

## Thank you from Samaritans Purse:

Samaritans Purse has given the church a certificate of appreciation for supporting Operation Christmas Child. It is on the noticeboard in the church foyer.

## Condolences:

Condolences to Rick and the Keuning family on the passing of Rick's step mum, Meryl. We are thinking of you all at this time.

## Thank you EBC, from Gosford Hospital:

Gail (volunteer), at Gosford Hospital has asked Diane to send a huge thank you to Ettalong Baptist Church for donating toiletries. Gail expressed her appreciation and requested that they keep coming please (especially toothbrushes and small tubes of toothpaste).

## Pastimes 2024

This is a craft group that meets weekly during school terms, 10am – 12pm Fridays.

You are welcome to join a table for card making, scrap booking or knitting or bring along your own craft.

Cost is \$4 For morning tea and includes a donation to our missionary support. Card making is an additional \$10 per week as you will be provided with materials.

Contact Sheila Hooper on 0414 790 691

## 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

## 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.

## 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.

## Spring Fair Co-ordinators Meeting Lunch:

Spring Fair Co-ordinators Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Sunday 4th February after morning tea.

***Please RSVP asap to Heather. (0419 297 496)***

The Spring Fair is to be held Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

## 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 on 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)

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> February as spaces are limited. Cost to be paid in advance is \$30 per person.

## 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.

## Ministry Of Leftovers Sewing:

Ministry of Leftovers has started a sewing day on Thursdays, from 9am to 12noon, to sew up projects for the upstairs shop. If you would like to join our sewing group and help, contact Maria on 0404 009 300.

If you require to be picked up phone Glenda 0434 576 604. Thank you hope to see you join us. They would love you to join them and to pray particularly for our worship services.

## 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.**

## 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](mailto:heatherlcrawford@bigpond.com) Phone: 0419 297 496 . There are brochures in the church foyer on the concept and how to start such a group.

## Zoom Prayer Groups.

Tuesday morning group 10am

Tuesday evening group 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 (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: [Ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au / documents](http://Ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents)  
You can download and print documents, or simply read and fill in documents online!

## 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](mailto:office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au)**

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