



Thank you, Robyn Moore, for your photo this week.

Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 8th February 2024

From The Pastor:

A few months ago, God told Jim to, “go to church!” Since his wife died, Jim has been reaching out to God. He listened to sermons and hymns and Jesus Christ revealed himself to him. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

Jim was walking in his new faith alone, but God told him go to church! It is not good for us to simply live the Christian life alone. God created us to worship him and grow in him with others. You need others to walk with you in our faith, and others need you. It is so important that we listen to the words of Hebrews,

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV))

So, a few months ago Jim took a big step and came to church. Jim had no idea that God had other blessings waiting for him at church. This Sunday Ruth and Jim are being married in our 9.30am service. They want to celebrate with you, their church, their family and friends that God has brought them together and blessed them. They also feel very blessed to be part of a wonderful supportive church family.

Blessings

Pastor David

This 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.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube:

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

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/D41Od-KN6OA?si=8otjfyWaSMWyHLyc>

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

This Sunday afternoon we are looking for answers to the question “Does God Know Me?”

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.

Men's Breakfast 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.

Please advise Graham Checkley or Ian Makepeace if you are attending.

The remaining dates for 2024 are 20/4, 15/6, 17/8 & 19/10.

A Letter From Beatrix Watofa:

Beatrix is one of our mission partners and we support her in prayer, financially and take an interest in her work. She is from Papua but works in the Philippines with Pioneers Mission. She writes...

Dear David, and Friends at Ettalong Baptist Church,

I wanted to share with you that yesterday marked a special occasion for the people of Papua. It was the 169th anniversary of the arrival of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our land.

In 1855, Carl Wilhelm Ottow and Johann Gottlop Geissler from Germany arrived on Mansinam Island in Manokwari, bringing hope to our people who were afflicted with sickness, lost in their sins, and not very friendly at the time. In 1900 that the first conversion to Christianity took place.

I used to wonder why these white people would come to Papua and risk their lives for our people. But over time, I had the privilege of meeting many kind-hearted servants of God who loved us Papuans in the Highlands. I learned from them and had a hands-on experience so that I could also share.

I am writing to express my gratitude for your support and generosity. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial gift to the Pioneers office last month have helped me to share the Gospel. Thank you for your sacrificial gift. May God bless you. In His care through you,

Beatrix

The people came for the celebration taking the boat to Mansinam island.



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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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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.