



Thank you, Jane, for this beautiful Pelican photo.

Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 28th November 2024

From The Pastor – Please Put This In Your Diary Now:

Prayer is behind every great revival in church history. Prayer changes things. At Ettalong Baptist Church we are passionate about prayer. But we don't just want this statement on prayer to be a nice sentiment. As a church we really do want to be passionate about prayer, for we know God loves us to pray for him, and there is power in prayer!

As we come to the end of 2024 and launch into 2025 the elders want to invite you to join us to start the year with prayer.

At 10am on New Years Day (Wednesday 1 January) we will be meeting in the Church Auditorium to pray. We will take as long as we feel on the day that we need to. We ask that the whole church join us to pray!

Please prepare yourself before you come. Denise is going to lead us in a time of worship (not necessarily singing). John is going to lead us in thanking God. David will lead us in a time of confession and communion, reflecting on Christ's death and resurrection. Jane will lead us in a time of looking forward to what God is going to do – Moving Forward in His Steps.

After our prayer meeting David will make coffee in the Hill Hall for anyone who wants one.

Sunday Morning Service 1st December at 9.30am:

We are continuing our 3-week series on Belonging. We have been reminded how as Christians we belong to God, by his grace. We also belong to His church. Finally, we build strong relationships when God is the centre of them.

Bible Passage: Ephesians 4:1-6

We will be sharing in communion.

Prayer is available at the front of church, after the service, with Kerrie and Peter Brown and others.

The service will be livestreamed on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/F0nZIWQVPI4?feature=share>

SHOUT!! Sundays from 3:30pm:

Please come and join us this Sunday for afternoon tea, games and activities for the children, at SHOUT!! held in our Hill Hall. This is our intergenerational Service, **everyone is welcome**.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, and we will be lighting our first advent candle.

Christmas Hampers:

Please place your gifts for hampers on the table at the back of the church auditorium.

Please give generously. We need Christmas food and gifts and general grocery items, gifts of nonperishable food, new toys, toiletries, and other gifts to place under the Christmas tree for the hampers. Alternatively consider making a financial donation towards the cost of the hampers.

See David Gilchrist.

Please nominate people to receive. There is a form attached to this newsletter that you can do this with. There are printed copies of this form under the Christmas Tree.

Christmas Services:

Sunday 22 December, 5pm, Children and Families Nativity Service.

6pm, BBQ tea

7.30pm, Community Christmas Carols in the Church Auditorium.

25 December, Christmas Day service at 9.30am.

Dates to Remember for the Christmas Hampers:

Sunday 15 December:

Last day for nominations for hampers. Last day to give gifts for hampers

Wednesday 18 December:

1pm 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.

Women's Gingerbread House Making Night Mon 2nd Dec 6.45pm:

Kits are all sold now for this wonderful night. Could you be praying for our speaker, Heather Grebert, all the organising still to take place and our participants coming from our local community?

I need lots of Christmas supper food to serve at our supper in the way of hot finger food, sandwiches, biscuits, fresh fruit, slice, fruit cake etc. If you can provide something, please see Margy. It can be brought to church on Monday, 1st December or at the beginning of the night on the 2nd.

Also, can Margy get help setting up all the tables and chairs on the Sunday the 1st after morning tea?

And finally, if anybody is available to come and help set up on the morning of Monday the 2nd at 9.30am Margy would be most appreciative. She has a list of things to be done and it's fantastic when there are lots of helpers to tick them off the list!

David will even make you a wonderful coffee on our coffee machine!

Many thanks. Margy Gilchrist

From The Treasurer:

Offering taken for week ending 23 November \$2540.00

Weekly Budget \$3461.53

Offering so far for financial year \$58,647.10

Budget \$72,692.00

Thank you for your generous giving.

LIFT End of Year Breakfast Friday 6th December:

Celebrating our final get together on Friday 6th December

WHEN? From 8am – 10:00am on Friday 6th December.

WHERE? At Crowne Plaza Terrigal for a delicious buffet breakfast.

COST? \$32.00 for locals to be paid individually on the day
(Proof of residency on the Coast may be required)

For those needing transport to Terrigal, we plan to carpool at the church at 7:15am.

Please contact Marion, 0401 344 814 or Di, 0411 273 124 for information or to make a firm booking, **no later than Friday 29th November.**

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Men's Christmas Dinner, Saturday 7th December at Yi An Chinese:

The men's fellowship Christmas dinner will be held Saturday 7th December at 6pm. \$32 banquet at Yi AN Chinese restaurant, Woy Woy.

Thanks Ian.

Angel Tree Gifts 2024. Prison Fellowship Australia:

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. **Please give \$30. Donations by Handing the money to Linda Strapps, in person.**

All money left over after gifts and postage, will be put directly into the *Prison Fellowship NSW account*. This money is used for the children for holiday camps. To find out more, please see Linda Strapps or phone: 0417 404 381

Thank you, Linda.

What is your Heritage?

We currently display the 10 national flags of our Mission Countries on appropriate occasions. At the Spring Fair we create a festive environment with a large display of about 120 national flags.

We have a plan to have a set of national flags that honours the heritage of EBC Church members which can be displayed on many occasions throughout the year.

The first step is for all the congregation members of both Sunday services including YouTube worshippers, to advise Geoff of their heritage. While we already have about 16 heritage links, it would be good if you could tell Geoff of the heritages of other members you know of, as we don't want anybody's heritage to be overlooked. As we live, work and worship in the multicultural Australian society. There will be just one flag representing each nation.

Geoff will be around the coffee tables on Sunday mornings, and David is available at SHOUT!! on 24th Nov. and 1st Dec to collect this information. Alternatively, please message Geoff on 0405 020 649. Thank you, Geoff

Don't forget about our Ettalong Baptist Church Recipe Book 2025:

The Missionary Committee and David have endorsed the concept of the production of a cookbook to be produced and on sale in 2025. All proceeds from the sales of the book will go towards supporting our missionaries in 2025. The theme of the recipe book will be **Easy Meals**, which can be made for people living on their own or for families.

We are inviting church members to submit one or two of their favourites, all time easy meals, whether it be an entree, a main, a desert, or special occasion dish etc.

It is important that you give these recipes to Heather from the start of November and no later than mid-December so she and another Home Economist, Louise Godwin, can test, check out and proceed to the printing of the recipes. You will be given the credit for the recipes.

Further information is available, from our own resident Home Economist, Heather Crawford.

Baptist World Aid Cards 2024:

Over \$900 was raised this year from sale of Baptist World Aid cards to help lift people out of the poverty cycle.

Thanks to those who purchased. Wendy Creamer

Pensioner

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 \$1.50. 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 if you have spare concession stamps that 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. Thank you.

Ministry of Leftovers will be closed for 2 weeks from the Dec 23rd:

MOL and café will re-open Monday 6th January.

Volunteers needed end Nov and December, Ministry of Leftovers:

Ministry of Leftovers will need extra volunteers for the last week in November and all December. Please see Caroline if you are able to help. Thank you.

Mainly Music needs Volunteers:

Our successful Friday morning pre-school aged program, Mainly Music, is needing more volunteers. If you are interested in assisting in this exciting program, please contact Joy. Ph: 0417 443 372.

Youth Life Warehouse Woy Woy Welcomes you to join them:

Volunteers are needed at the warehouse to help sort out goods. Everyone is welcome. Please see Sheila

Zoom Prayer Groups every Tuesday at 10am and 7pm:

Please 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 Hall. You are welcome to join them.

EBC Willing and Able Ministry, 'helping our people at home':

In our church, we have many people in need of assistance to do small jobs around the home, like changing a light bulb. This is a job easy for many, but impossible for others.

If you are in need of this kind of help, please contact Lynette at office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care in Hospitals, a Message from Melanie:

I am aware people are admitted to Gosford Hospital at various times, and I would like to advise the church, that I am available and very happy to make pastoral care visits. However, I would prefer the patient has been asked if they would like a pastoral care visit from me first, and then that request can be passed on to me. Thank you, Melanie.

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.

Ettalong Baptist Church Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact: Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) or Deacon—Jean Lynch (phone:0425 749 224)

Find Important Church Documents on our Website:

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

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

Prayer requests are available at - EBC Prayer Chain, link below:

These requests are looked after by Lynette Tilden at: ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com

We also add Praise points to thank Our Father for all his blessings!

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



Christmas

Sunday 22nd December

Family Nativity @ 5pm

Community BBQ @ 6pm

Carols @ 7:30pm



Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 25th December 9:30am

JOIN US AT
Ettalong Baptist Church
8 Barrenjoey Road
Ettalong Beach.

"The Church on the roundabout"

