



NEWSLETTER

Loving God and our Community

PASTOR'S PIECE

Greetings church,

I trust you have had some time of refreshing over the Christmas holiday season and now are settling into the rhythm of another year. It is often at this time that I reflect on all that we do as a church and consider what is truly fulfilling our true purpose, and what we do unnecessarily. Often we can become busy but not always active about the most important matters we are called to. Acts 2 gives a description of the church following Pentecost, and many leaders identify 5 primary church functions in this passage. I wonder what we do well, and in what areas we function least effectively.

Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (**Discipleship**) and to fellowship (**Community**), to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (**Service**). 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God (**Worship**) and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (**Evangelism**).*

Why don't you reflect on these 5 functions and together discover what purpose needs the most focus.

God Bless - Garry

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2021 Here we come-date claimers

A word from Maarit

Pen Pals

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2021 HERE WE COME

PRAYER

FRIDAY NIGHT 7PM - 9PM

February 5th

March 5th

April 9th

MEMBERS MEETING

SUNDAY 11AM - 12PM

February 7th (+AGM)

May 2nd

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 8AM - 10AM

February 13th

March 13th

April 17th

FAMILY GAMES

**SATURDAY 27TH
FEBRUARY
5PM - 9PM**

WOMEN'S GROUP

WEDNESDAY 7PM - 9PM

February 3rd, 17th

March 3rd, 17th, 31st

EASTER SERVICES

**THURSDAY 1ST APRIL 6PM
SUNDAY 4TH APRIL 9AM**

CRAFT GROUP

TUESDAY 9:30AM - 11:30AM

February 9th, 23rd

March 3rd, 17th, 31st

60TH BIRTHDAY

**SATURDAY 27TH MARCH
6PM START**

LIFE GROUP

THURSDAY 9AM - 11AM

Every week

WORKING BEE

**SATURDAY 24TH APRIL
7AM - 12PM**

A Word from Maarit

One month has already passed and we are well into the new year. Some of the plans I had for January didn't happen. I didn't get to travel as I had intended. Instead I cleaned and refurbished my study. I also watched the full first season of The Chosen on my phone.

How about you? Are you seeing the year unfold differently to what you had planned? Are you finding alternatives to your plans when they get disrupted? How do you respond when that happens?

Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. It was in the context of the Pharisees saying that Jesus was the ruler of the demonic. Jesus rebuked them by these words.

Matthew 12:34b-37 "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."(NASB).

What is this season revealing about your heart? Listen to the words that you are speaking to others. Is your speech grumbling, complaining or spreading fear? Maybe this reveals something about you. God is calling each of us to return to our first love. This is the season of keeping your heart pure by guarding what you meditate on. This is the time for sitting at Jesus feet and listening again to the words which first drew you in and invited you to love him.

If Jesus seems remote or you need a reminder then can I recommend The Chosen on YouTube. It reawakened memories of what I first saw in Jesus. Yes, it is a series and yes they are taking some creative license in the story, but the gospel shines through and Jesus is played authentically by the actor. It made me want to be part of his story. Additionally immerse yourself in the gospels.

Jesus loved you first and thought you worthy of dying for your eternal salvation. Let your heart swell with love for Jesus again.

First episode of The Chosen can be found on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=craeyJdrCsE>

Pen Pals

CAN YOU ANSWER A
LETTER THIS YEAR?

As a church The Gap Baptist Church financially sponsors 6 children. Many of the children write to us and ask questions. This year we are wanting every person to write one short response letter, words of encouragement to one of the children. This can be done electronically or on hard copy. If you are willing to do so please let Kathryn know. Already in 2021, five of the sponsor kids have written to us. Let's show them that our church cares. Children's letters attached to newsletter email.



Your letters to your sponsored child are so much more than words on a page.

They are hope, support, encouragement and love delivered in an envelope.

Your words can help a child believe in themselves, inspire them to study harder at school and draw them closer to God.

Letters often become a child's treasured possessions: they're read over and over and kept safe, often hung on the wall in pride of place.

From Compassion
<https://www.compassion.com.au/write>

website:

This year Kids Connect will be focusing on Heroes of the bible.

Sunday 7th February

Kids to come dressed up as a superhero (adults welcome too!)

**KIDS
CONNECT**



**GOD NOT ONLY WANTS TO BLESS YOU BUT
BE A BLESSING THROUGH YOU**

