



Up and Coming Sundays

This Sunday we continue our series in Daniel to Chapter 5 where we see God bring swift judgement upon King Belshazzar for his pride and arrogance. The idea of God cutting short life in an act of judgment is not well received in the modern era, but one that we will consider today as we come to the teaching. Someone helpful wrote:

"God is sovereign over all of life and can take it whenever He sees fit. God and God alone can give life, and God alone has the right to take it whenever He so chooses. In fact, He ultimately takes every person's life at death. It is not our life to begin with but God's... God is under no obligation to extend anyone's life for even another day. How and when we die is completely up to Him."

www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-violence.html

Next week we will pause our series on Daniel to have Question Box Sunday and a visit from Gideons informing us of their work. Gideons International is an evangelical Christian association founded in 1899 to distribute copies of the Bible free of charge. This Bible distribution is a global enterprise taking place in 200 countries, territories and possessions.

The following week will resume our teaching in Daniel focusing on Chapter 6. We do encourage people to read ahead in preparation for the teaching.

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAY CHURCH.....weekly at 9:30am

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.....8:15am on 1st Sunday of the month

WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP.....weekly at 9:45am

WIGGLING WOMBAT PLAYGROUP.....Thursday from 10am

THURSDAY CHURCH.....weekly at 6:30pm

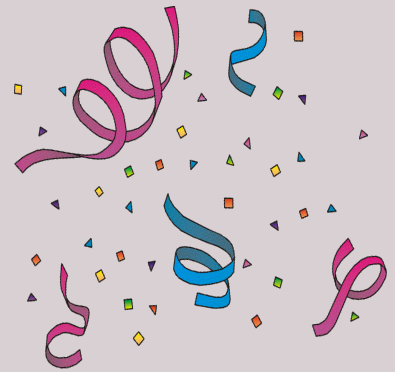
COMMUNITY PRAYER NIGHT.....7pm on 4th Sunday of the month

FAMILY NEWS



Congratulations!

On September 26, 1951, in the distant land of Hungary, our own John & Klara Szilard were married. That means it is their 65th Wedding Anniversary! We thank God for their lives, and the joy of experiencing 65 years of married life together.



Mission Project 2016

Thanks to all who have generously given to the support of the Beeck family in Mozambique. The trivia night was a \$811 boost to our goal of \$5000. To date, we have raised \$3950 for the mission project, meaning there is \$1050 to go by the end of December to achieve the target. Thank God for his people's generosity.

Things for Prayer:

Colin & Pudge shared with us their difficult news that he is suffering from stomach cancer. Please pray for them during this time. Pray also for John Quigley as he recovers from a double knee replacement. Also for Wendy's mum Heather who has been diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer. These and others within the church family remind us of our dependance upon God in all things. Please keep them in your prayers. For anything else you would like specific prayer for please speak with our Elders or Deacons.

Change in Meeting Schedule

As a result of the school holidays and some being away, there will be *no community night prayer night or first Sunday prayer morning in the next weeks*. However Thursday Church will continue over these holidays.

Westview Review and Planning (WRAP)

The church meets specifically to seek the mind of God to consider the life of our church in February, June, October each year. The next WRAP meeting will be held on October 9th after our regular morning service. The meeting duration is usually for 60-90 minutes. Many churches only allow formal members (see the note in the bulletin explaining the difference) to attend such meetings and have an input. It has been our practice to encourage anyone who considers Westview their home to join with us. We want to encourage all to come as we believe each person is a valuable member of our church community.

This meeting we have some important issues to address which have been made known previously. We ask anyone with concerns to raise them directly with the Elders, so that if a recommendation does come to a meeting, concerns have already been heard and addressed. If you would like to raise any concerns, we ask that they be raised earlier rather than later with the Elders.

Recommendation from the Special Target Group: "That Westview Baptist Church recognise God's gift to us of Tony and Lynne Kenning for the office of deacon and that we have a service to set them apart for this role".

Recommendation from the Elders/Deacons: As a covenant community of faith and conforming to our previous practice, we should enter into a covenant of grace with JJ and Soona Bomford, called by God and with the encouragement of the whole church community, serving our church in full time ministry and a new covenant with Tony and Wendy in their new roles in a broader ministry with other churches. We ask that your input prior to this matter be addressed to either Lee, Kath or Steve, not to Tony, Wendy, JJ or Soona directly. Paper copy can be found on the back table or viewed online at <https://goo.gl/zRIEju>

It has been our practice in recent meetings to consider the events in the life of the church over the previous months since our last meeting. We do wish to continue this practice and to further consider them in

light of the church vision statement. We would encourage each person to consider various aspects of our church life, and how they might fit within our vision. Here is an example:

Our Vision: *"In our healthy church where the truth gives birth to worship and fruitful living, we see:*

(corresponding to the columns in the following table)

1. *people wholly dependent on God in prayer,*
2. *the gospel transforming the lives of those around us,*
3. *each person using their God-given gifts,*
4. *leaders being raised for ministry,*
5. *people being sent in partnership."*
6. Events in the life of the church/church family

MINISTRY OR EVENT						LIFE EVENT
Sunday Church	Y	?	Y	Y	?	-
Birth of baby	-	-	-	-	-	Y
Trivia Night	N	Y	Y	?	Y	-
Wednesday Friendship	?	Y	Y	N	N	-
New carpet	-	-	-	-	-	Y

Y - Yes (Clearly seen to work towards this)

? - Not clear (Some uncertainty)

N - No (Does not work towards this)

When we consider the future ministries and activities of the church, we want to also consider them in light of our vision. Our desire is to ensure that they align well with our purpose, mission and core values:

Our Purpose: "Westview Baptist Church exists to bring glory to God as a community of faith in Western Sydney."

Our Mission: "To make passionate disciples of Jesus."

Our core values:

1. bible centred teaching;
2. loving one another;
3. becoming more like Jesus;
4. life as worship;
5. prayer;
6. making Jesus known.

Our Vision: “In our healthy church where the truth gives birth to worship and fruitful living, we see:

[illegible]

Membership at Westview Baptist

One of the distinctives of a Baptist church is that the final authority of the church does not lay with the leaders but the church members [Matthew 18:15-17] as they seek to discern the will of God from the Scriptures. From 1 Corinthians 5, it is the church that disciplines a person who continues in sin and in 2 Corinthians 6, it is the church that welcomes people back. In Galatians, the church is to judge

good doctrine and truth [1:6,7]. That does not deny that the body of Christ who are dependent upon each other [1 Peter 2:4,5] are also to trust their leaders that they have recognised and submit to their authority [Hebrews 13:17]. The church are to follow their leaders while they continue following Christ [1 Cor 11:1].



Westview has always been inclusive of all who come and join with us, never focusing on those who are “members” and those who are “non-members”. For whatever reason, if a person does not wish to be a formal member, we don’t wish to make any distinction.

It is helpful in two ways to maintain a membership role:

1. It is the clearest expression of a person’s intention to journey with us.
2. Without a membership role we are not recognised by the government and therefore we cannot own property nor have a church bank account.

For these reasons, membership is important and worth considering. If you have any other questions or would like to consider formal church membership, please talk to one of the Elders who can discuss it further with you.

Thursday Church

The Thursday Church has been a remarkable success over the last 7 weeks. We have had many people come as they are able. We have shared food together, sung songs, reflected upon the scriptures, and prayed together which has been our primary focus. Among all of that, we have had great fellowship, friendship and laughter!

Over the next few months we will be having guests come to share the scriptures with us, to share their journey and for us to pray for them. We have asked them and their families to come (when possible), to share a meal with us so that they might know of our love and support for them in their ministry. The invitation was given for them to bring some from their church if possible, which is easy to do when it's a "potluck" dinner. We have invited:



Ian and Christine Jeffress from Doonside Church of Christ will come on the 29th September. They left our church to pastor the small and struggling church of Doonside C of C.



Josh and Deanna Duncan with their three kids will be with us on 13th October. Many will remember that Josh came to Blacktown Baptist in January after Tony's interim there. We want to support him and do all that we can to encourage his ministry there.



Bay Ayling, COBIS Worker at Doonside and Seven Hills High School, will be joining us on October 27th.



Alex Purnomo will be with us on 10th November. Alex is the Anglican Minister at Doonside. He may bring his wife (Cindy) and daughter (Maddy). His brother is a Roman Catholic Priest and they are originally from Indonesia.

Thursday Church will have a break from 15th December and resume on the 2nd February 2017. We would encourage all of Westview to come on Thursday at 6.30pm to share in this remarkably significant time.

WHAT'S COMING UP?



Preparing for Service

Creating Safe Spaces training is required for church leaders and anyone who supervises children in any church ministry. The next CSS Training is on **5th November at Blacktown Baptist** and five of our members have already signed up for it.



To attend please talk to JJ or contact Judy Henderson directly on 02 9868 9221 or email: css@nswactbaptists.org.au

Or go to <http://nswactbaptists.org.au/event/css-awareness-2/>



Keep the date free: Women Of Westview (WOW)

...for a Cake Decorating Day on **19th November!** It would be a good opportunity to invite friends and for them to meet other church women. For those who do not attend church, it is always easier to come to church on Sunday if you know people before hand.

www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



www.twitter.com/westviewbaps



www.instagram.com/westviewbaptist



www.facebook.com/westviewbaptistchurchdoonside

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