

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST

the beacon

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23rd August 2026

a beacon of
hope

THIS WEEK

Monday

24th August

Tuesday

25th August

Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am in
the Parents Room.
Talk'n'Do 9.30am

Wednesday

26th August

Women's Study 9.30 -11am
KYB 12.30pm

Thursday

27th August

ONE50 Dance 3.45pm

Friday

28th August

Youth Group 7.00-9.00pm

Saturday

29th August

Nepalese Church
8.30am - 12 noon

Sunday

30th August

9am Worship Service

10.45am Worship Service

2pm Grace Community
Church Service

On-Line Giving

Account Name

Elizabeth Church of Christ

BSB Number

105 121

Account Number

441343540

IT'S MEANINGLESS WITHOUT YOU

I will be the first to admit, even though I am an extravert, I do enjoy having some people free time. However, we are not created to live like a recluse. As much as it seems good to hide away in our own existence, we deprive ourselves and others from the joy of God's intent. Yes, it is God's intent for us to be in relationship with others. The second half of the great commandment is to love our Neighbour as ourselves. The NT has almost sixty "One Another's" passages encouraging us on how we should be relating to each other. We looked at one of these recently in Hebrews 10:23-24: *"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."* Proverbs, also, has valuable verses that champion the power of friendship (we will look at these in two weeks). This Sunday we will examine a passage in Ecclesiastes that brings understanding to the idea of a healthy friendship. This is how Solomon starts the section: *"I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun. This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, 'Who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure now?' It is all so meaningless and depressing".* (Ecc. 4:7-8)

Let me state clearly that Solomon certainly had his issues, however we cannot deny that he had a discerning and wise heart. He longed to lead well, and he prayed to God for that ability. (1 King 3:7-9) Look at how God responded to his prayer in vs. 10-12: *"The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So, God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.'" God honoured Solomon with a heart that was wise and discerning. A heart that would never be rivalled in the same way.*

Now, understanding how God blessed Solomon with wisdom, we look at this text in Ecclesiastes as something God has inspired. I only point that out for those of you who are reading this article and already feeling the itch to withdraw into your little hermit cave. It is so easy for us to live in our own bubble with the way the world is. We can watch the news, scroll Instagram, and stalk people's Facebook account. We can watch church online, do studies through the internet and even learn great skills through YouTube. We can do all of this (and more) without ever actually interacting with another individual face to face. Yes, it

is easy to live the loner life these days.

However, I go back to the words of Solomon (he is wise by God's standards remember). Solomon says it is meaningless and depressing to live life alone. It is not what God desires for us. We will miss so much joy and delight if we choose life on an island. Besides, we will also be disobedient to God if we choose not to build relationship with others. Yes, we might miss the risk of hurt and frustration, but even those situations help us grow. Realise that God uses these relationships to support us, strengthen us, and grow us in our faith journey.

In the next two weeks we are going to look at Meaningful Friendships. God has created us to love him with all that we are, and he has also created us to love one another as ourselves. In fact, it is our love for one another that often displays the love we have for God. Life alone is meaningless but loving one another brings blessing and fulfillment to life. I have one last thought about a meaningful friendship. The world also tells you that having a million followers on Instagram will make you meaningful but will it. Those followers are not your friend, they will not pick you up when you are down, they will not meet your needs when you are in trouble, they will not support you when life is overwhelming and they do not have your back when you are under attack. These are signs of meaningful friendship not a like on Facebook. A million people who think I am cool, yet do not know me well enough to support me through difficulties nor challenge me in everyday life is meaningless. They are not friends at all. We must be careful not to get caught up in the world's view of relationship. As in all things, God's way is more enriching and fulfilling. Together, let's discover true meaning in friendship the way God intends.

See ya Sunday
Pastor Brent

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Tuesday 24th August @ 6pm
at Elizabeth South Community Centre
Thursday 27th August @ 7pm
at Rod & Chris Row's House

IN LOVING Memory

We would like to let you know that Trevor Taylor's Funeral will be held here at the church on Tuesday 1st September at 1.30pm. All are welcome to attend. Please continue to pray for Glenys and the family.

OFFICE: 38 Ashfield Rd Elizabeth SA 5112

PHONE: (08) 8255 2467

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9am - 2:30pm

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES: 9am, 10:45am & 2pm

SMALL GROUPS: 5pm

WEBSITE: www.elizabethcoc.org

EMAIL: office@elizabethcoc.org

FACEBOOK: Elizabeth COC

A special welcome to all our visitors. May you be blessed by the time you have spent with us at the Elizabeth Church of Christ.

PRAISE & PRAYER NEWS

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- For Brent's message last Sunday encouraging us to ask God to search our hearts and to be willing to listen to the Holy Spirit to bring conviction of impure motives, lack of trust or offensive behaviour, renewing us as followers of Christ.
- The three families who attended the Newcomers lunch after church on Sunday.
- The dedicated Maintenance team who give their time each Monday to maintain our building and grounds. Rain, hail or shine!

PRAY FOR

- Daniel Naismith who is recovering from a recent traffic accident.
- Jack Bates who is recovering after a recent skating accident and surgery.
- Safety on our roads and for all those who are affected by traffic accidents, the victims, their families and the first responders.
- Those in our Church and community who caring for sick or disabled family members.
- Helen Smith and Sharon Neville as they co lead the Café Hope and community lunches.
- Continue to pray for the rough sleepers who struggle to keep warm during the cold weather. Pray for God to guide us when we are trying to meet their needs.
- People in the world who have been affected by natural disasters.
- The Christians in other countries that are being persecuted because of their beliefs.
- Pray for those in the world who are affected by hostile environments.

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."



Saturday 22nd August – Family Quiz Night
Sunday 23rd August – Youth Fundraising Lunch
Tuesday 25th August – Talk N Do
Wednesday 2nd September - MumCo



The August Bible Reading plan is available at the Information Desk and on the church website

Church History with Ferdinand



Do you play or have you played a sport?

Who do you play a sport for?

Over the years the church has had many sporting teams. From netball, to tennis, to basketball (are the Beacon's still playing?)

Have a look at these gorgeous shots!.



ELIZABETH
SOUTH
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

LISTEN
LOVE
LEARN



*Helpers
Needed*

Sunshine Cafe, Shop 16

Elizabeth South Shopping Centre

Volunteer Chefs, Kitchen Hands and Waiters are all needed to keep serving low-cost meals to bless the local community.

Also, well worth a visit for an excellent economical meal.

See Michelle Stevens for more details.

Youth
**FUNDRAISING
LUNCH**
this Sunday



Together

