

THIS WEEK

Monday

8th June

Public Holiday

Tuesday

9th June

Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am in the Parents Room.

Wednesday

10th June

MumCo 9.30-11.30am
KYB 12.30pm

Thursday

11th June

ONE50 Dance 3.45pm

Friday

12th June

Youth Group 7.00-9.00pm

Saturday

13th June

Nepalese Church
8.30am - 12 noon
Grace Community Church
Music Practise 12noon-
2.30pm

Sunday

14th June

9am Worship Service
10.45am Worship Service
2pm Grace Community
Church Service

4.30pm Faith Conversations

On-Line Giving

Account Name

Elizabeth Church of Christ

BSB Number

105 121

Account Number

441343540

"ADDING TO" IS ABOUT A DESIRE TO

What a journey we are on this year at Elizabeth Church of Christ. I don't know about you, but God is doing incredible work in my life. As you know we are exploring what it means to "live by faith." This phrase is found in a few places across the NT. (Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38) I must admit the phrase is a great slogan and a great aspiration.

However, when we begin to unpack the concept, we are reminded of our humanity. It is a challenge to step out of our comfort zone. It seems impossible to make some of these changes. It is confronting to face the growing pains of deepening our faith. Yes, we want to live by faith, but the reality of a Godly life overwhelms our motivation to live by faith.

A further question we face is discovering the refining process of living by faith. We are exploring that a bit more deeply at the moment in 2 Peter 1. The idea that we are to "add to" (2 Peter 1:5) brings with it a real battle. I don't know if you have pondered this idea, but for me to add something into my life (that isn't there) means that I have to remove something that is there. This can be a huge fight. Especially if I am comfortable with what is already in place. For example, if I am going to add to my faith goodness then I must remove wickedness. This seems simple and who wouldn't want to remove wickedness. Well, here comes the confrontation; do you like to gossip and be negative? If so, you can't do that with goodness. It has to go. How about self-control? Yes, I would love to have a bit more restraint in my life. However, when someone cuts me off in traffic, I can't lay on the horn and yell at them and claim to have self-control. I am sure you get the picture. For there to be goodness flowing out of my life, then wickedness has to be replaced, for self-control to be leading my response than selfishness must be removed.

Consequently, as much as I love the idea of adding Godliness to my life, am I willing to remove those attributes that hinder them from growing in me? Again, I am confronted with my efforts being less than. Now before we get too overwhelmed with the refining journey of living by faith. We must remember what we are told in 2 Peter 1:3. When we discover that God has given us everything, we need to live a Godly life that changes everything. We don't need to work at this Godly life; we need to let God shape us and form us into his image. This makes the process a bit different. Yes, there is sacrifice on my part, but everything needed is provided.

For me, I realize that this practice of living by faith comes down to a reshaping and refining of my desire. God has given me all I need to live this life of faith. Yet do I desire Him more than my own way? If I do, then I will be willing to make every effort to add to my faith

these things. In fact, if I long for God's will enough, it will become my greatest passion above everything else. It is then that I begin to look at this refining process with the joy that James (James 1:2) and Peter (1 Peter 1:6) speak of.

My outlook towards refining and growth can be a positive one. I can actually get excited about the change God is offering to bring to my life. I can look forward to removing some of my fleshly qualities and replacing them with Godly ones. I love this little excerpt I found in a commentary on 2 Peter:

"Tired of boring, do-nothing religion—the kind that shuffles into a pew on Sunday and stays awake by thinking about what professional sports to watch that afternoon?"

Peter has a deal for you. "Off the couch," he says. "Let's get shakin'." These eight qualities move us from couch-potato faith (lots of bulk, not much activity) to marathon faith (lean, mean, light, strong, and on the move).

The eight qualities (faith to love) are part of one seamless package, the total person. But you can work on them one at a time. Here's how: Pray about one of them, talk about it, practice it. Don't wait for perfection before moving to the next one. Plan to repeat the process soon. These are traits of growing faith, the only kind that matters."

Let's get excited beloved family! God is inviting us into a deeper and richer closeness to Him. He is opening the way for us to shine even brighter for His Glory. Yes, it means we have to let go of things, but what they will be replaced with is so much better. How exciting! I wonder what He wants to add to your faith this week.

See you Sunday, Pastor Brent



**FAITH
CONVERSATIONS**

how to share
your faith
confidently &
naturally

sunday | 14th june
4-7.30pm

Church Name Badges

Do you want a church name badge?

I will be putting an order in soon if you are wanting a magnetic church badge with your name on it.

Cost is \$9.50

Let me know if you want me to order one.

Thanks Chantel

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:

- John's message on Sunday reminding us that God is graciously inviting us to accept and walk in the ability to choose the right way to live our lives every time we need to make a choice.
- Raynour Giddings who shared her testimony at the Sunday morning services.
- The small group of people who met together at our church on Monday with the Life FM roadies to help make insulating blankets from donated potato chip packets to give to those who are living rough on our streets during this cold weather. Each blanket has bible verses and words of comfort and hope sealed between the layers. Lord bless those who receive them.

PRAY FOR:

- Pray for opportunities to share our faith with others that we do life with outside of the Church.
- Other Churches that are struggling with falling attendance. Pray for a refreshing of the Holy Spirit, so that they may reach out to the community around them, sharing God's abundant love and drawing more to Him.
- Our young parents as they love and nurture their children, leading them into a deeper understanding of God's never ending love for them.
- Those in our church who are not well. May they find God's peace in their time of recovery.
- Those people who are caring for family members who are sick or elderly.
- Pray for those who are affected by the current war conflict.
- Politicians as they navigate the country through these difficult times.

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."



Diary of a Church Mouse...

Ferdinand

I love potato chips, most flavours are good as long as they are not too strong and I don't eat them too late at night (indigestion!). I have noticed lately people had been bringing empty chip packets into church – very disappointing as they were all washed out without a single crumb. They sat there for a few weeks until Monday, when some people came along and took them out.

The Life Fm Roadie crew came for a visit on Monday and invited a few friends to help them make Buddy Blankets. These are blankets that they actually make out of the chip packets and give to homeless people to help keep them warm and hopefully dry during the winter months. They work by reflecting the natural warmth of the body.

But how does a chip packet turn into a blanket you ask? The first step was to iron the chip packets together so they made a big blanket. People then wrote messages of hope and stuck bible verses on the blanket. Then they sealed the blanket all snugly by ironing the front and back with plastic wrap. All water proof. It was a hard task but worth the effort for the comfort it will hopefully bring someone in need. Five blankets were made in total over the two hour workshop. Well done team.



80th Birthday Celebrations for Colin Sieber

Colin and Pam are hosting an Open House at their house on Monday 8th June between 10am and 5pm. All welcome. No gifts please. Love to see you there for a cuppa, scone and conversation.

Contact Pam or the church office for the address.



- Sunday 7th June – Sunday Lunch @ Café Hope
- Monday 8th June – Public Holiday
- Wednesday 10th June – MumCo 25th Anniversary
- Sunday 14th June – Faith Conversations
- Tuesday 16th June – Talk N Do




URGENT SUPPLIES NEEDED OPEN

TUES, THUR, FRI

9am-12noon

boomerang CENTRE

Winter Clothes

Jackets & Jumpers, Pants & Trackies, Towels, Curtains, Tea-towels, Bric-a-brac



Monthly Prayer Meetings

Thursday 11th June @ 10am
at Lorraine Shepherd's House

Thursday 11th June @ 7pm
at Graham & Yen Crocker's House



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

