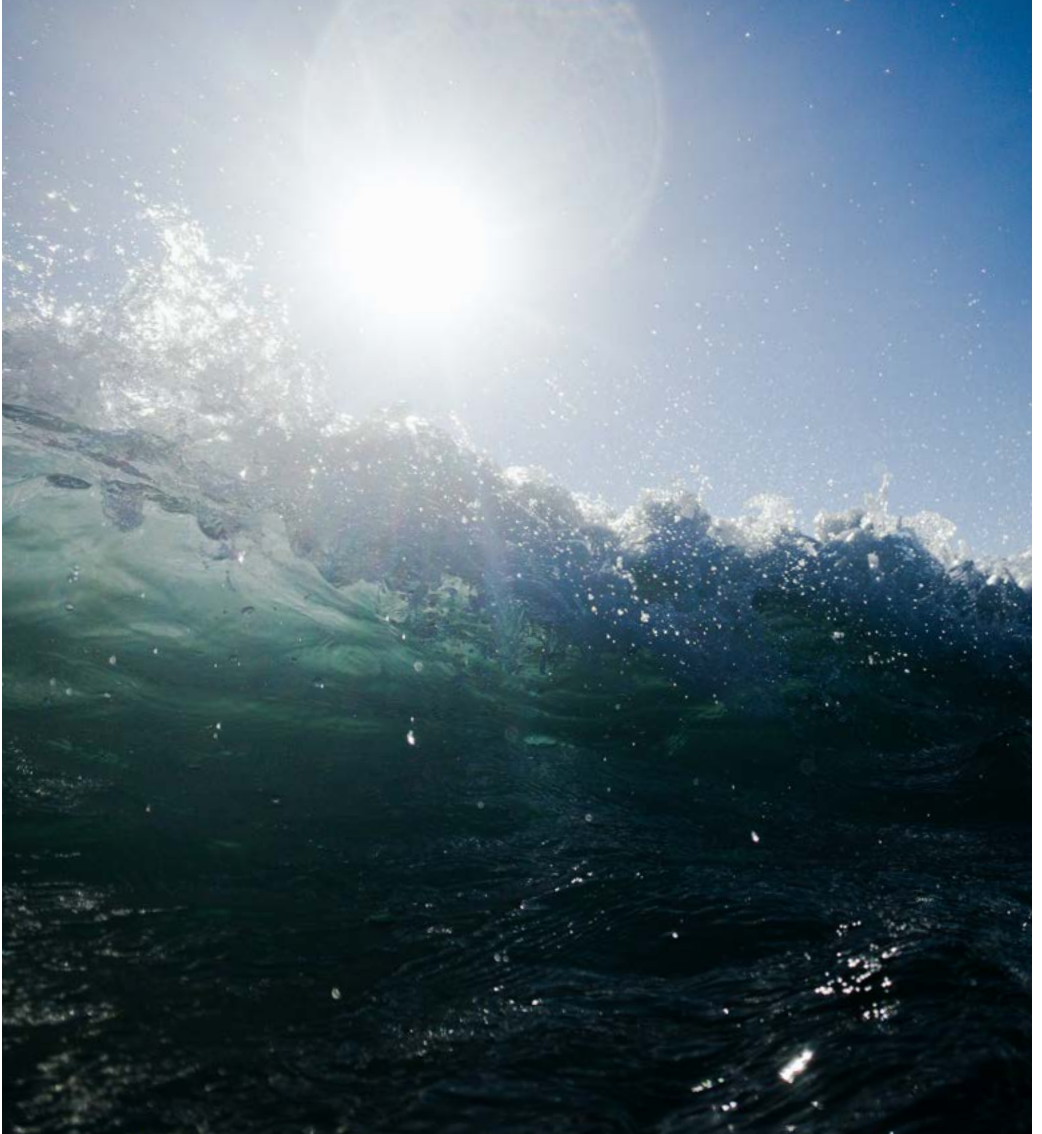


ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

COMMUNITY MAG



MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



The Sermon on the Mount

Community Groups at St Faith's are a massive part of the life of our church. If you're new among us or from another church, maybe you know them as Bible Study Groups, Growth Groups or simply Small Groups - that's what we're talking about. Smaller groups, that enable spiritual growth, by studying God's word and prayer, and doing it in community together - here at St Faith's we call them Community Groups.

We're committed to being people who are growing towards spiritual maturity in Christ, knowing that spiritual maturity comes not with age or stage or life, but by the work of God's Spirit. Community Groups are a key part of seeing this happen.

But this isn't something new, made up by the modern church. This is what Jesus taught his first disciples to keep on doing in life. This was to be their very purpose - to make disciples who grow to maturity in Christ. Jesus said,

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matt 28:19-20)

These words of Jesus recorded at the end of Matthew's Gospel, to make disciples by teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded, take us straight back to the words of Jesus toward the beginning of Matthew's Gospel - what did Jesus teach? What did Jesus command? What did Jesus expect from his disciples?

So this term, we're heading back to the start of Matthew's Gospel where we'll be hearing the words, teachings and commands of Jesus from Matthew chapters 5-7 - a part of the bible affectionately known as the 'Sermon on the Mount.'

You see, when Jesus called his first disciples in these early chapters, he started teaching them right away that they should expect to have an impact in the world. In fact, he informed them that this was the reason he'd called them, saying, "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." Imagine this for a moment - they'd only just met Jesus and there was nothing particularly special about them - they were just common people. They weren't particularly intelligent, or strong, or

well-educated, or well-organized. Not all that “holy.” In fact, they were people a bit like us.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus outlines the mission of those first disciples, which is ours too - showing the impact his disciples were expected to have and how to live a life that does, in fact, make a difference for God in the world. These chapters serve as an explanation of the mission Jesus calls us to - to be salt and light in the world. But maybe even more powerful is that these words of Jesus also show us how to get on with that mission in our lives. God’s word is powerful. Jesus words are to be obeyed and if a person reads these words and by the power of the Holy Spirit puts them into

practice, he or she will be the ‘salt’ and ‘light’ Jesus intends.

My hope and prayer is that this term, as a community of believers here at St Faith’s, Jesus’ words will truly capture our hearts, reshape our convictions, and move us in action to personally ‘shine like light’ to those around us. That together we will live lives that demonstrate the transforming work that God has done in us - that people would “see our good deeds, and praise our Father in heaven”(Matt 5:16).

If you’re not yet in a Community Group but want to be part of the action, please reach out to Rosemary or myself and we’ll be able to help you take those next steps.

The SERMON on the MOUNT

MATTHEW 5-7



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY

MARCUS DRUITT

St Faith's is surrounded by 1000's of people who could easily walk to church.

In fact, you'd be surprised to know how many locals have either come to Church, Playtime, Gumnut, Quilting, ESL or any of the other ministries that we have, and even more of those people have walked past the church and wondered "Am I allowed to go there?" (yes, I heard a story just this week of someone who was interested in re-engaging with their faith but assumed they weren't allowed to come to church).

This is why on Sunday 18th February, we're having an Open House Sunday to invite all our neighbours to see what church is about. It's going to be a very simple service, where we explain clearly what we do and why,



OPEN HOUSE

SERVICE TIMES *18th Feb*

8.00am* - Choir with organ followed by devonshire tea

10.00am* & 4.00pm* - Church followed by jumping castle, BBQ, waffle cones and face painting

6.30pm - Church followed by pizza and waffle cones

*** barista made coffee at these services**

www.stfaiths.church

See you there!

avoid Christian-ese jargon, as well as having a jumping castle and bbq at our services with kids ministries (10am and 4pm), devonshire tea, choir and organ at our traditional 8am service, and pizza at 6.30pm.

To make the most of this opportunity, we actually need to invite our neighbours! And personal invitation is always more powerful than impersonal. So in the two weeks leading up to Open House Sunday, we're asking all of church to get out and personally invite the neighbours, from Bunnings down to Ramsay St and across to the Lake. Can you spare just 1 hour, to go with a friend and invite the neighbours?

Sunday 4th and 11th Feb - 11:30-12:30 (if you go to 8am or 10am church) and 5:15-6:15 if you could to 4pm or 630 church.

Paul tells Timothy to 'fan into flame' God's gift of the Spirit, that we do by walking in step with the Spirit and being courageous, not 'quenching the Spirit' through timidity.

Will you step out in faith and courage, and invite the neighbours to come to Open House Sunday on 18th February?

If you'd like to be involved, please let Marcus know at marcus@stfaiths.org.au



BELONG

NEIL SOUTER

Joining a new church can be hard!

Often questions come up like: Am I wanted here? How do they do things?

What does this church believe? How do I get involved and play my part?

What we and many other churches have noticed is that even after people have been attending a church for a while, they do not have a sense of belonging or feel a part of the vision that the church is seeking to achieve under God.

As a staff team we recognised these challenges which is why we started "Belong".

Belong helps people have what we call a "Membership Moment" where people can say "yes, I understand what this church is all about, I'm excited about where we are heading and I know how I can play my part."



Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

There is a distinction between
“Attending” and “Belonging”.

As disciples of Christ, who have been saved and bought by Jesus death we must not see ourselves as people who simply “attend a church service”....we have been saved by Jesus to so much more!

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

In fact, if we are saved by Christ we Belong to Jesus and His Church. The bible uses the wonderful image of the church being “the body of Christ” working together, seeking to build each other up in faith, being a family of believers and being on mission together in taking the Gospel out into the world.

So before we invite someone to join a Community Group or a Ministry Team, we would love people to come to Belong. It will help people have a “Membership Moment” and understand who we are, where we are heading and how we are seeking to get there together under God.

So if you are New-ish to St Faith’s and want to work out if St Faith’s is the church for you or if you have been attending for a while but desire to plugin more - Come to Belong!

The next of the Belong sessions are starting on the 25th Feb - You should come!

Scan the Connection Point to Register:



MEET A MEMBER

FAST FOUR

Jeannette & Maurice Kemp



FAV MOVIE
Lamb cutlets

FAV FILM
Ben Hur

FAV BOOK
Hans Christian Anderson

FAV PLACE TO VISIT
Charters Towers,
North Queensland

What are the highlight events of your life?

Maurie did his apprenticeship as a chef working in some well known establishments in Melbourne. In the mid seventies he was offered a position with White Wings in product development. After this he moved into selling commercial catering equipment which led him to start his own business importing commercial catering equipment mainly from Scandinavia, UK and Italy. He continued this business until his retirement approx six years ago.

High lights of our life have been meeting and our journey through life together.

We have been fortunate to have travelled to many destinations in Europe, Scandinavia, Asia and the US.

Tell us about your family...

We have two daughters, two great son-in-laws and four grandsons ranging from 12 to 15 years of age. Both Maurice and Jeannette were from families of four.

Our elder daughter and family live at North Willoughby, both working in the city and their boys attending school in Chatswood at Pius.

Our younger daughter and family are currently living in San Francisco after living 15 years in Hong Kong and then 3 years in Sydney. Both their boys attend schools in Palo Alto.

How did you come to follow Christ?

Maurie got to know Christ whilst attending Sunday school at St Johns Malvern, and serving in the choir.

Continuing his journey with continuous attendance and service at various churches throughout his life . Attending St Stephens Kellyville prior to our move to St Faiths.

How long have you been at St Faiths and what do you find helpful here?

We have attended St Faiths for approximately 10 months. We have found both the ministry team and the congregation very welcoming and supportive of us. We hope we can be of service at St Faiths.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pray for those expecting-

Jessie & Jono Ok (Morning Church), and Fiona & James Kirsop.

Congratulations- Max & Roanize Irish (Night Church), on the birth of Hugo Sterling Irish!

Those unwell-

Larry Tolnay
Larry Tolnay
Trish Clifton
Barbara Temperley
Anne Robinson
Heidi Schwarz
Max and Imelda Krause
Janet King

FEBRUARY PRAYER DIARY

THU 1

PRAY FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AS THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF LEARNING.

Pray the teachers have had a refreshing break and are well prepared and energised for the start of the new school year. Pray for those children who are starting school for the first time and for those who have moved on to high school, that they make new friends and settle in well. Pray for parents as they manage work and school routines.

FRI 2

Pray that many youth will return to **SOULIES** after the summer break and that the leaders are refreshed and ready to teach for another year. Pray for Jake as he coordinates Soulies.

SAT 3

Pray for **ST FAITH'S KIDS** as families begin to return to church from holidays and the new year begins. Pray for the leaders who teach the children faithfully and lovingly. Give thanks for Lyndal who oversees this ministry.

SUN 4

Give thanks for all our **WELCOMING TEAMS** across St Faith's. Pray for them as they all get together for some training and encouragement today. Pray for Neil as he teaches from the bible and that the Welcome Teams would welcome others like Christ Welcomes us.

MON 5

Pray for **ESL** as classes resume today. Pray for our team, that they will be organised with lesson preparation, enthused to re engage with old students and to welcome new ones. Pray that last year's students are keen to return and new students hear about ESL and come along to classes. Pray too, that we might rely on our Heavenly Father week by week, and that we continue to seek His will and guidance, so that our lessons are Christ led and a blessing to all who come

TUE 6

Pray for our **2024 COMMUNITY GROUP LAUNCH MORNING AND EVENING** on this morning and tomorrow night. Pray many would come along and God would use this time together to help us get excited about meeting together in our Community Groups to learn from Him in His word and to show His love and care to one another as we commit to another year of doing real life together in our Community Groups.

WED 7

MISSION – IRWAN AND CATHERINE AFES AT UNI OF WOLLONGONG – Thank God for the new ministry trainees joining us. Pray for wisdom and insight in training the trainees that God has entrusted to us, that they grow in their character to be more like Christ, and conviction of the gospel and competency in handling and teaching His word of life to other students. Pray for FOCUS (International Students Fellowship) and the Cantonese and Indonesian Bible Study groups, as we start today. Pray for Reload (19 Feb) where we gather 2nd year and above students to share this year’s vision and mission, so that we will be in one mind and students in reaching out to our campus with His Gospel during Orientation Week and beyond. Pray for the Orientation Week (20-22 Feb) that the Lord will lead us in making contact with many students on campus and that we have opportunities to share His gospel and that they may be willing to join us, have fellowship and grow in maturity in Him, through His word and may many come to know and trust Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Pray for the on going planning and execution of many ministries that we will be running starting when the semester starts (from 26 Feb onward).

THU 8

GUMNUT KINDY – Pray for good health and energy for the staff as they begin another year of teaching the children in their care and for good relationships with their families. Pray especially for new children attending kindy for the first time to settle in well and to establish good routines. Give thanks for the Director Steph who oversees the running of the kindergarten.

FRI 9

LIGHTHOUSE – Pray many children will come along each Friday afternoon and build friendships amongst the other children. .

CONT'D	Pray the children will be encouraged to invite their friends to Lighthouse. Give thanks for the faithful leaders who disciple the children who attend each week. Give thanks for Lyndal Foote who oversees this ministry
SAT 10	Pray for the annual YOUTHWORKS SRE CONFERENCE being held at St Faith's today. Pray for the primary and high school SRE teachers and helpers as they are encouraged from God's word and equipped for the year ahead. Give thanks they are able to meet other SRE teachers and share wisdom and knowledge. Pray the speakers are engaging and encouraging.
SUN 11	Pray for the NEW-ISH LUNCH TODAY AT THE SOUTER'S HOUSE . Give thanks for the many new-ish people who have joined us these last few months. Pray that they will take the next steps in making St Faith's home and joining us on mission to: see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus.
MON 12	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING - Give thanks for those from different congregations at St Faith's who come together in unity in Christ to pray for matters relating to our church, our community and our world. Give thanks to God that we can pray together without fear of persecution.
TUE 13	Pray for the FULL DISCOVER COURSE starting tonight. Give thanks for the guests who have already signed up, and pray that our church members will be courageous, not timid, in inviting people to hear about who Jesus is and what he has done for them.
WED 14	Pray for all the COMMUNITY GROUPS here at St Faith's as they resume for term one. Give thanks for the great privilege and opportunity we have to be able to meet around the bible together. Pray that our groups might be places of deep growth as we open God's word each week. Ask God to help us all get into good habits of regular attendance and that we would make Community Group a real priority of our week. Pray for the NEW COMMUNITY GROUPS that have started. May God unite and draw those who are in these new groups to build solid relationships with one another. Pray for wisdom and enthusiasm to those who are leading those groups, and to help those

CONT'D	who are in those groups to really commit to regularly being there each week. Give thanks for those who SERVE US AS COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS.
THU 15	WAR VETS – Pray for management and staff that continue to make the best decisions to enable them to care for our residents. Pray for volunteers as they reach out to residents in pastoral care and Pastoral volunteer Michele Smith as she completes a Diploma in Theology this year by correspondence with Moore College. Pray for Homes for Heroes that opportunities will keep opening to share the gospel. Give thanks that Chaplain Bob and wife Lesley have been able to catchup with family from Western Australia.
FRI 16	Give thanks for the six guests who came to DISCOVER 1 NIGHT ONLY last month, and the church members who invited them. Give thanks that all of them want to continue learning about Jesus in some form, whether it be attending church, the full Discover course, or meeting with a friend to read the Bible one to one. Pray that God's Spirit will open their eyes to the truth of Jesus as Lord and the need of Jesus as their saviour.
SAT 17	Pray for SCRIPTURE TEACHERS AND HELPERS AS THEY PREPARE FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF TEACHING SCRIPTURE IN LOCAL SCHOOLS. Pray many parents will have opted for their children to attend scripture classes and that there will be sufficient teachers to cover all the classes in our area. Pray all the children receive the message of the gospel with open hearts and that school staff are supportive of the Scripture teachers who come into their classrooms. Give thanks for the hard work of Jo Harpur over the last 30 years. Give thanks for Peggy King and Christine Lanceley as they coordinate Scripture.
SUN 18	Pray for the OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY today as we invite our local neighbours to see what church is all about. Pray that our members will 'fan into the flame' the gift of God's Spirit within them by being courageous and inviting people, not quenching the Spirit through timidity. Pray that our door knocking efforts will be well received and God will bring people to salvation through our efforts.

MON 19

MISSION - DAN AND LIV WEBSTER - NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- Thank God that we had a good break in January, for rest and the way that it points us to our eternal rest. Thank God for the growth in our boys, it's a joy to see. Pray that Liv would finish well at Side by Side and while moving her workplace in March that the transition will go well. Ask God that the Bible study at Side by Side will continue to be a blessing to the women there, as new leaders take it over. Pray the Lord would lead students to NETS who will be equipped to make Christ known and that he would provide the means for them to attend. We give thanks for the various ways that we are supported.

TUE 20

WAC - We offer grateful thanks for gatherings in late January of WAC residents to celebrate the life of two former residents who died recently. Both gatherings provided opportunity to offer comfort to the bereaved and to proclaim and promote Christian hope in the Resurrection. Pray for ongoing opportunities to be good neighbours in our Warriewood Brook Village and keep sharing our hope in the risen Lord and Saviour.

WED 21

TCP - Give thanks for all our volunteers showing love and care for our guests. Pray they have opportunities to share their faith with guests in God's perfect timing. Pray for more volunteers to serve in this ministry. Pray for the Holy Spirit to change hardened hearts and for eyes, ears and hearts to be open to the gospel. Pray for Neil as he leads the Bible study each week. Pray the faith and understanding of those who attend will grow.

THU 22

QUILTING AND NEEDLEWORK CLUB - Give thanks for the women who come along each week and have fellowship together, for the way they share skills, encourage each other with their individual projects and for the items they make for charity every year. Pray that new people from the community will want to come along. Give thanks for Judith Baker who oversees this ministry.

FRI 23

THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE - Give thanks for each of the counsellors who try to bring comfort and healing to their

CONT'D	clients. Pray for wisdom and energy for the counsellors and for the clients that they will be able to experience healing, love and hope. Give thanks for the directors Keren and John, the board and the counsellors for their commitment in seeing the Cottage grow to meet the needs of the community and for all the supporters who continue to provide financially through donations.
SAT 24	Pray for energy for NEIL AS HE PREACHES ACROSS ALL SERVICES TOMORROW AT ST FAITH'S . Pray for clarity and for those at church to listen well and apply what they learn to their lives.
SUN 25	Give thanks for those who are new to St Faith's and starting the BELONG COURSE today. Pray that they will come to understand what it means to be a part of the St Faith's church family and know how to play their part in the Body of Christ here at Narrabeen.
MON 26	Give thanks for the MEMBERS AND LEADERS AT JESUS CLUB . Give thanks for the leaders who generously give their time. Give thanks for the opportunity we have to share God's love for His people at Jesus Club. Pray the message of Jesus' love to be clear and comforting for all members and leaders.
TUE 27	Pray for our UPCOMING AGM (10th March). Ask that God would raise up wise and godly people to serve on Parish Council and as Wardens and Nominators.
FRI 28	WORLD - Pray for those around the world who have been affected by war. Pray for an end to conflict that has displaced millions from their homes. Pray that aid workers are able to reach people in these areas who are without water, food and essential items. Pray for peace, an end to suffering and allowing families to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Ask God to guide leaders and nations to work toward lasting peace and stability in war torn areas around the world.



**SUMMER @
ST. FAITH'S**



NEWISH LUNCH

@ the SOUTER'S

11th Feb 12pm



**GUEST SPEAKERS
THIS JANUARY AT
ST. FAITH'S...**

7th **Chris Ekins**
(Coast EC- Forster)

14th **Trent McGrath**
(Village Church- Jindabyne)

21st **Chris Jones**
(Youth Works)

28th **Tony Bradford**
(Narrabeen Warvets Chaplain)



**OPEN
HOUSE
SUNDAY**

**Sunday
18th Feb**



~~Sonries~~

Kicks off 2nd Feb

6.30-8.30pm



BELONG

Sunday 25th Feb

& 3rd March

