

NOV 2024

in the house



stirlingfamilychurch.au

FRUIT IN ABIDING – BY BEC FORTUNATOW

As I write this I find myself hurtling towards Christmas and the end of another year. I don't know about you but I feel like I have been playing catch-up all year.

Time is such an interesting concept and in the face of Eternity and our walk with the Lord even more so. God's word advises us to use our time wisely because we do not know what tomorrow holds.

Ephesians 5:15-17 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Luke 10: 38-42 - As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha,Martha,"the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed-or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Martha works hard to welcome Jesus to her home. Her sister Mary of Bethany, simply sits at the feet of Jesus and listens. Both Mary and Martha serve, yet Mary understands the priority and necessity of choosing to abide with Christ.

It is so important for us especially during times that are traditionally busy, to recognise the importance of pulling aside and taking the time and space to abide in him.

John15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

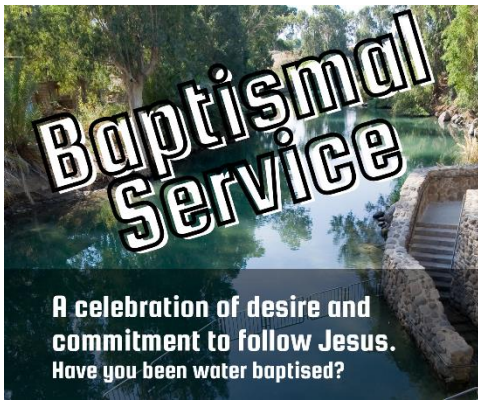
If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Bearing fruit is not manifest as being busy or productive. It is reflecting the love of Jesus to a world which is lost.

It is living life in His Power and His Presence. It is only possible by spending time and having that close relationship with Jesus.

I encourage us all to purposefully carve out that precious time to abide in him ,so that he also may abide in us .

God Bless, Bec!



We have pencilled in a Baptismal Service for Sunday 1 Dec 2024 and/or 4 Feb 2025. These dates are shared that we might ask – **Have you been water baptised?** (Acts 8:36)

Water baptism is one of the most beautiful and significant moments in your journey as a Christian. This simple act of obedience as a Believer, has powerful supernatural significance.

Water baptism is a public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ and the outward demonstration of the inward transformation that takes place when we receive Him as our Lord and Saviour.

The Bible is clear that salvation is a free gift from God and is received simply through faith in Jesus. We get water baptised, not in order to be saved, but because we have already received the gift of salvation. Salvation precedes water baptism. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.* *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Water baptism is very symbolic. Colossians 2:12-14 says: *If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've*

already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive - right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's Cross.

Water baptism is a symbol of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection. We enter the water as a symbol of entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ, coming just as we are, clothed in our old life with all of its habits, mindsets and behaviours.

Allowing ourselves to be immersed in water by somebody else during the process of water baptism, is symbolic of willingly yielding our life to God's rulership as an act of love, obedience and trust. God sees the faith in our vulnerability and humility and is pleased.

The water itself is symbolic of a grave. As you are immersed, your old self dies and is buried just as Jesus died and was buried. In the same way, just as Jesus rose to life again, you too rise from the water as a symbol of new life in Him as a brand new creation. The water is not magical in any way, but like everything in the Christian life, being water baptised is a powerful act of faith and any act of faith pleases our Heavenly Father. Water baptism uses the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to symbolise our journey from death to life, and from old to new.

Have you been water baptised?

Towards Christmas

Over the next few months into Christmas, we have invited four ministries into our gathering time for specific purpose, and hope. **And each presents an opportunity to invite someone you know to come along to Church, maybe for the first time, and maybe the first time in a while..**

Benny Prasad will bring a testimony of hope and how God intervened in His life, and he has never been the same since living a life of faith after the transforming Word of the Lord into his life.

Aaron Chalmers is Dean of Ministry at Tabor, who had a God encounter moment at a Charismatic Convention, setting up

his pathway into theology and teaching. Aaron will bring a Word of encouragement and faith into our fellowship.

Robert Roy visited last year and travels as an evangelist ministering through the power and presence of the Lord, in song and word. Rob has a passion to be in the presence of the Lord, and be changed in His glory, from glory to glory.

John Roux is the CEO of Tabor, and a minister of the Gospel. Johan has a heart for people to hear from the Lord, and practice their theology and God given calling and gifts for the sake of the Kingdom.

27 Oct	Benny Prasad	Invite Service / Testimony
10 Nov	Aaron Chalmers	Tabor / Teaching
24 Nov	Robert Roy	Invite Service / Worship & Ministry
8 Dec	Johan Roux	Tabor / Teaching & Prophetic



Christmas this year will see us celebrate at 9.30a on Wednesday 25 December for

a 1 hour celebration, finishing at 10.30a. We will keep things simple and not be serving morning tea afterwards.

In the evening of Sunday 22 December, we will hold our Celebrate Christmas Invite Event, with the hope to sit outside near the main front doors, and sing Christmas Carols together, after enjoying food and fun targeting young families.

But based in rain percentages, we are also ready for an all indoors occasion too! Our Christmas theme for 2025 is **Indescribable**...how the Prince of Heaven was born unto us...humble...in a manger. It is the revelatory truth of the Spirit that causes an indescribable awe like response

Indescribable

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**6.00-8.30P SUNDAY
22 DECEMBER**

Gathering in community for carol singing,
food and family fun as we celebrate Jesus

**STIRLING
FAMILY
CHURCH**

2 Avenue Road Stirling

NOVEMBER SUNDAY TEAM

Date	Sunday Coord	Comm Serving	Comm Prep	Welcome	Giving Collect	Giving Count	Kitchen Support	GoNations Coffee	First Aid	Sunday Prayer
03/11	Anita	Ava Jackie Ev Dot	Anita	Ava & Jackie	Mikinley & Ev	Anita & Luan	Juli & Shane	Milkshake Family Service	TBA	Luan
10/11	TimH	Derek BecF Roslyn JanetP	TimH	Penton & Jenny	John & Shane	TimH & Penton	JanetP	Anna & Ev	TBA	BecF
17/11	Leon	Mikinley Margaret AprilG Shane	Leon	Barry & Mia	Joshua & Ava	Simon & Leon	Margaret	Mia & Ava	TBA	JimV
24/11	Rob	AprilG AprilC Anna Shirley	Rob	Shirley	Ev & Dot	MattG & Rob	AprilC	Joel	TBA	JudyK

Thank you for serving the Lord, and blessing our Church family. If you need to swap with someone, please contact another person directly. [admin@stirlingfamilychurch.au // www.stirling.elvanto.com.au]

November 2024

stirling.elvanto.com.au/calendar

October '24

December '24

S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4 5
 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30 31

S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9.30a Prayer 10a Invite Service Benny Prasad Sharing Kids Church	28 W4	29 7.00p EnKindle	30 7.30p MtBarker Womens LG	31 10.00a Mens Coffee Club 10a Hahndorf Womens LG	1 5.00p HCCC Prayer 7.00p re-Branded Yth 7.00p Craft (Nairne)	2
3 9.30a Prayer 10.00a RY presents Family Service 6.30 EP Night	4 W5 6.30p Elders	5 7.00p EnKindle	6 7.00p Crafters LG	7 7.00p Nairne Mens LG	8 5.00p HCCC Prayer 7.00p re-Branded Yth	9
10 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering Guest Dr Aaron Chalmers Kids Church & 10:40	11 W6	12 7.00p EnKindle	13 7.30p MtBarker Womens LG	14 10.00a Mens Coffee Club 10a Hahndorf Womens LG	15 5.00p HCCC Prayer 7.00p re-Branded Yth 7.00p Craft (Nairne)	16
17 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering Kids Church Elvanto Session after service	18 W7	19 7.00p EnKindle	20 7.00p Crafters LG	21 7.00p Music Practice 7.00p Nairne Mens LG	22 5.00p HCCC Prayer 7.00p re-Branded Yth	23
24 9.30a Prayer 10a Worship Gathering Guest Evangelist Rob Roy Kids Church	25 W8	26 7.00p EnKindle	27 7.30p MtBarker Womens LG	28 10.00a Mens Coffee Club 10a Hahndorf Womens LG	29 5.00p HCCC Prayer 7.00p re-Branded Yth 7.00p Craft (Nairne)	30
1 9.30a Prayer 10a Family Service Stirling Christmas Pageant 6.30 EP Night	2 W9 6.30p Elders	Notes				

PRAYER AND OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY

Praying is not our final option, but our first response. Praying is not an action of reaction, but taking the initiative in faith. Matthew 6:5-8 records Jesus saying the phrase three times: ***“When you pray...” Not if you pray, but when you pray.***

The assumption or implication here is that we all should pray. Prayer is powerful. When we need something, we pray! Healing – pray! Help – pray! Peace – pray!

Jesus said in Matthew 6 to ***“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us that it is God’s will in Christ Jesus that we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances!

In Acts 16, the Bible records that Paul went looking for a place of prayer. We need to take the initiative, and stir ourselves up to pray. Here are a few opportunities:

Sun 9.30-9.50a (Weekly)

Each Sunday morning, we pray before our Church service and prepare our hearts to worship, and bring glory and thanks to our Lord God.

We pray for one another and pray that our hearts would be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and that we might show love towards one another.

Sun 6.30-7.30p 3 Nov (Monthly)



On the first Sunday of each month, we will gathering for Evening Prayer and Earnestly Pray. Acts 12:5 says: ***‘So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.’***

Earnestly means fervently, or deeply, or intentionally are other words that describe this word earnestly. As does ‘to stretch’ or ‘reach’ or ‘be in tension’.

EP Nights are about praying with intentional desperate confidence,

without ceasing, to the Lord to move, transform, open up and save.



The Friday Night Prayer Group meeting at Miss Perez has concluded. This Prayer Group would pray for and across our community.

Thankyou for being involved and taking hold of the Kingdom by faith for our local Hills area.

Over the next month, HCCC are meeting weekly, so we will join with them to prayer together for our community.

Fri 5.00p (weekly)(HCCC)

Our Church is not alone and we collaborate as we can with Hills Combined Christian Churches.

HCCC meet for prayer each week in November at Sunset Rock Church in Stirling at 40 Spencer Street. The heart of HCCC is to pray for our local area, and in particular for revival.

HCCC CHRISTMAS PRAYER –FRIDAYS FROM 1 NOV @ 5.00P

December is a busy time, end of year preparations, completions and activities! Its interesting that our busy December rhythm within our culture seems to complete with Kingdom opportunity. December is a unique time to pray to the Lord of the Harvest, a time where family and friends are more open to an invitation to gather together to celebrate what they know deep in their image to be true – Jesus lives!

God is the Lord of the harvest (Mt 9:35-38) and this infers that Spirit of God is sovereign over seasons of the harvest

(Jer 5:24; Amos 4:7). The harvesting of souls is God's work – we get to co-labour! (Col 2:13). Salvation and the gracious translation into God's kingdom is a gift of God, through His grace (Eph 2:8–9). With the gift of faith to believe in Jesus Christ (Rom 12:3; Phil 3:9), we are sealed in the promised Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13; 2 Cor 1:21–22).

Therefore let us join with other believers from across the Hills to pray to the Lord of the Harvest, that our hearts to be in alignment with the heart of the Lord of the harvest, who said the fields are ripe!

PRAYER & FASTING (MONDAY GROUP)

PRAYER & FASTING MONDAYS

In September, we embarked upon a season of prayer and fasting, that we might unify before the Lord. Our desire is to continue in prayer, and continue in fasting, sharing together with those who

have a burden, and are able, to fast on a Monday. If that is something the Lord places upon your heart, please let Bec Fortunatow or Ben Bonython know so we can setup shared communication.

THANKYOU - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thank you for participating in 2024 Operation Christmas Child. Hilda shared that she was able to see 23 boxes

leave our community, and head overseas to bless a child.

What a privilege it is to show kindness, and share kindness, and what a difference it makes.

April G can tell you some stories – ask her about how Operation Christmas Child works at its destination!

SUN 17 NOV – AFTER THE SERVICE

Elvanto is our Church Support System and also functions like our intranet, meaning a source of information and communication that is internally facing.

If you would like to know more about Elvanto, resetting passwords, sorting our devices, learning how to do something or understand it more, please RSVP to Ben for 17 Nov after Church.



SUN 1 DEC - STIRLING CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Stirling Community Christmas Pageant start in Druid Ave and make their way to the Stirling Oval. The pageant will be on Sunday 1st December 11am – 3pm. HCCC will communicate to Church groups about details for those would like to participate in the event. Our Church Service will finish at 11am sharp in order to make sure folk

CHOICES WE MAKE – EXCERPTED FROM PR BARRY SILVERBACK

Not all choices in the life of the believer should be accepted. Every christian is faced with a choice between what is permissible and what is not beneficial for the believer.

All choices have their outcomes and the believer is required to ask what will be the results from those choices made or about to be made? Will they be helpful or harmful? Will they be consistent with God's advice in scripture?

Do we accept or refuse things offered to us which are allowable but not necessarily beneficial or helpful? Not all choices we make simple 'black and white', right or wrong.

Some things are complicated and require discernment. That is why we are encouraged to go to God for his counsel.

Notice that the Apostle Paul's choice to refuse what was lawful or permissible (1 Cor 6:12). The matter may have been acceptable for Paul to do, but it was not

helpful for him or his mission. The lesson as a believer is that it is not always a matter of what is permissible or easy which is the deciding factor.

Every believer should be considering what affect the choice will have on their spiritual life and growth, and how will it "fit" with the mandate and commission that God has given to every believer.

Notice that King David refused to receive to a piece of land for worship in 1 Chron 21:23-25. In David's case it is because he was aware of the moral and spiritual values that pertained to his personal relationship with God.

He did not take something just because it was free. For David, his worship was something to come from his own life, his own sacrifice, his own provision, his own relationship with the Lord.

May we be more discerning and seeking the wisdom of the Spirit's guidance to our hearts –asking "is this choice to accept right for me?"



Happy Birthdays for Nov

4 - Blair

16 - Phoenix

7 - AndrewS

30 - Simon

7 - Peter

14 - Aleea



Music Practice
7.00p Thur 21 Nov



Giving by EFT

bsb: 035039 acc: 587611

ref: Giving or Missions

**YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED AND
PLENTY LEFT OVER TO SHARE WITH OTHERS (2 COR 9:8)**



MISSIONS TRIP TO INDONESIA



PRACTICAL

Cleaning
Maintenance
Gardens
Painting



ACTIVITIES

Sport
Tutoring
Games
Encouragement



GOSPEL

Prayer
Ministry
Sharing
Miracles
Faith Step



JULY 2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS