

Dear friends,

HOW CAN WE GROW AND BEAR FRUIT FOR HIS GLORY?

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)

Through the New Testament, the book of Ephesians we were able to consider our corporate identity and calling as the body of Christ. Ephesians gives the church an extraordinary vision of what it means to be the body of Christ. God's purpose is that in Christ, He will be our God and we will be His people. When this is fulfilled, the body of Christ will be 'the fullness of him who fills everything in every way'. (1:23) What an incredibly high view of the church! We are God's

masterpieces, His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (2:10) As the gathered body of Christ, GWAC has a vision to be 'a light on the hill' and a mission to seek to be 'a caring community making, maturing and mobilising disciples of Jesus Christ, locally and globally.'

Over the next few months, we will be working together as a church community to reflect on our vision and mission as a church community and plan strategically for how we might best, as God's handiwork, use our gifts to serve. God's word points us to five strategic areas that form who we are and what we do. Will you join me in praying that God by his Spirit will lead us to discern how we might grow and bear fruit in these areas for his glory?

Worshipping

Are we seeking to be a community that is bringing glory to God, Gospel-centred, worshipping the Triune God and growing as a prayerful, Spirit led community under the absolute authority of scripture?





Inclusive

Believing that all people are created in the image of God, with equal value, worth and dignity; are we seeking to be a community that is welcoming and safe for all people? Will we seek to demonstrate God's love and justice in action: sharing community, hospitality, practical and pastoral care?

Missional

Will we seek to be a disciple making community? This will involve welcoming all people, reaching out to those around us and mission both local and global.

Growing

Will we seek to be a community in transformation, seeking to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus?

Serving

Will we seek to be a serving community, encouraging and equipping each other to using our gifts in God's kingdom work?

Over the next few months, may we be challenged by these questions as we seek to serve God together as a church family.

RUTH SERMON SERIES

Join us in our current Sunday English sermon series on Ruth as we are reminded that God is at work revealing his loyal covenantal love ("hesed").



SPECIAL: COMING UP

Sunday, Sept 15th: Worship-In-Song Special (all three Services)

Get involved by emailing your top three worship songs to Roger at r.nicholson@gwac.org.au. Feel free to also share something of why you chose your particular songs and what they mean to you. **Deadline for requests: Monday 9th Sept.**





GWAC Mid-Autumn Festival Combined Love Meal: Sun 15 Sept 2024, 12pm

The GWAC Mandarin congregation warmly invites you to a special combined love meal to celebrate the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival after the 10.30am Sunday service on September 15, starting at 12PM. Please bring your favourite dish—a double portion to share as we gather for a time of fellowship and celebration. We look forward to enjoying this festive occasion together!

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 14th September, 8:30-10am

- RSVP by Tuesday 10th September to Brad Jackson (b.jackson@gwac.org.au)
- The breakfast aims to gather **men of all ages** for time to enjoy each other and a great meal. This particular breakfast will be a good event to invite friends to. **Our speaker is Mark Purser, chaplain from the Essendon Football Club.**



Mark is in his seventh season as the Essendon Football Club Chaplain after serving the Adelaide Crows in the same role for 5 seasons. Life can throw you curve balls and no more so than dealing with the deaths of two prominent coaches at the Crows within a 15-month period. Mark will draw on that experience and also share stories & principles of building resilience within the four walls of a professional footy club.

GET INVOLVED!! GWAC NEEDS HELPERS

Please help with catering/ hospitality: Deanery Lunch at GWAC

GWAC is hosting the Glen Waverley Deanery Lunch on Thursday 19th Sept, 12pm. Please contact Rev'd Maria Brand, m.brand@gwac.org.au if you can help with catering & hospitality.

Get Involved!! Christmas Makers' Market

- Planning is in full swing for our market to be held on Saturday 23rd November, between 9am-1pm.





- The market aims to connect us with our local community and showcase GWAC's ministries; and to bring all the GWAC family across all services, generations and backgrounds together to serve our local community.

Want to get involved? We need a team of volunteers, stalls-holders, musicians and people willing to serve in many ways. Click on the link [HERE](#) to complete a survey and register your interest.

- If you have any question, please contact Fiona Dunn, fiona@dunn.au.
- Our next organising meeting will be Monday 7th October, 7:30–9pm. All welcome.

Gardening volunteer sought

From Lynn Pryor– For several years I have taken responsibility for two small areas of the church garden. Sadly, arthritis is now making it difficult for me to continue this. I would be grateful to hear from someone who would like to take over this task, which requires only a few hours work occasionally. Please contact Lynn Pryor lynntobias20@gmail.com or Stephen Giles s.giles@gwac.org.au.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Kids Ministry: Update

1. **Playgroup:** we've had several enquiries from participants about our proposed TUESDAY group. **We hope to start in Term-4; however, we need 1 or 2 more volunteers.** Our playgroup training is simple once the Kooyoora Clearance (compliance) process is complete. Room set-up is another way to help us, for just 30mins! Email Anthony for more.
2. **GLOW & Spark Kids:** will be on a break during school holidays (Sundays 22, 29, 6 Oct) and will return on 13 Oct for a new 6-week series based on the kids book *"The Garden, the Curtain & the Cross"* (connecting the whole Bible together).
3. **Anthony:** Anthony is writing & preparing to be the camp speaker for Grades 2-6 at CYC's *The Island*. 50+ kids are expected to join from churches & schools (Mon 23–Thurs 26 Sept). Anthony will be on leave from Friday 27 Sept till Fri 4 Oct.





IGNITE Camp (Monday 23 – Friday 27 September, Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach)

We are so excited to invite our youth and their friends to the Ignite Youth Camp! Our guest speaker, [Bree Wilkinson](#), will be challenging the youth to know and trust Jesus. And for fun, teams will be participating in a heist challenge called, “*Catch Us If You Can*”. Competing in a series of games and activities, youth will attempt to steal the most valuable pair of sneakers ever crafted from eccentric billionaire and security expert, Magnus Chadwick.

Register now using the [LINK](#). If you require a subsidy for your children to attend camp, please contact Brad Jackson. We don't want anyone to miss out on account of finances.

DON'T MISS!

IMPORTANT: Train Your Brain (TYB) will NOT run in September

- TYB will resume in [October \(Saturday 5th\)](#)
- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

Easy Does It (EDI): Mondays at 1.30pm except public holidays.

Friday Night Craft Group in September

- When: Fridays 6th and 20th September, 7pm onwards
- Where: Fiona Dunn's- 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley (round the corner from GWAC)

Saturday 21st September: Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 @ GWAC
- Includes creating knitted shawls and pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church notice board for more details. All welcome!

Thursday, 26th Sep: Mothers Union & Friends

MU & Friends' next meeting will be on Thursday 26 Sept, 1.30pm in Meeting Rooms 1&2. We'll discuss preparations for GWAC's Christmas Makers' Market this year.





Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in [Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am](#) for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

MARK IN YOUR DIARY

Hope25 Meeting in October

The September HOPE25 meeting is POSTPONED . Next meeting date is Sat 5th October at 2pm. Join us to brainstorm ideas and pray together as we prepare for HOPE25. We invite you to be part of the Working Group that will help GWAC prepare for Hope24, please contact Maria, m.brand@gwac.org.au (or use the GWAC App or Connect Card).

Women's Brunch: Saturday Oct 12th at 10am

Join us for a delightful Women's Brunch filled with fellowship, inspiration, and delicious food! We invite women of all ages for a morning of encouragement, uplifting conversations, and fun. Whether you're a regular attendee or it's your first time, we welcome you with open arms.

- Special Note: Feel free to bring a friend along!
- RSVP: Connect Card, GWAC App, Church Office, or Rev'd Maria Brand

OTHER EVENTS

Bush Church Aid (BCA): Spring Gathering at GWAC

- Monday 16 Sept, 12 – 2pm
- Speaker: David Horne (Tasmania)
- Register: bookings close Friday 13 September. Please use this [LINK](#).

Summer Under the Son (SUTS) 2025 (Theme- "Near & Far")

- This year will feature insights from CMS workers, on refocusing our view of the mission field and opening our eyes to cross-cultural opportunities.
- 16th – 18th January 2025, Syndal Baptist Church
- Registration: [LINK](#)





FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expenses:	Oct23-Jul24	Oct23-Sep24
	Actual	Forecast
	\$	\$
Income	850,362	1,011,000
Expenses	847,764	1,034,000
Surplus/(Shortfall)	2,598	(23,000)

At the end of July, we have a surplus of \$2,598. We thank God for your generosity in all the contributions we receive. Whilst we have a surplus now, we are expecting a shortfall of around \$23,000 for the full year as our income does not fully cover our expenses.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the ministries and missions of GWAC. We are grateful for your continued support.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services

Ruth Sermon Series		
1 Sept	Ruth 1	Speaker: Maria Brand
8 Sept	Ruth 2	Guest Speaker: Tamie Davis
15 Sept	Ruth 3	Speaker: Brad Jackson
22 Sept	Ruth 4	Speaker: Maria Brand
Acts Sermon Series (Part-3)		
29 Sept	Acts 13	Speaker: Andrew Malone





Wednesday 10am Service

4 Sept	Genesis 6:9-22, 7:19-21, 8:18-19 and 9:12-16	Series (continues): How the World began 'The Story of the Flood'
11 Sept	Genesis 11:1-9	'The Building of the Tower of Babel'
18 Sept	'Favourite Hymns and Songs Service'	
25 Sept	Genesis 12:1-9	Series: Celebrating Mission 'Preparing for Mission'

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

