

Church Contact Details: PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520; 4226 1750

Website: www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org

Facebook: Wollongong Congregational Church

Minister: Rev Con Despinidic - 42713235/42261750

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Please feel free to contact Pastor Con should the need arise.

Elders: Wendy 42292483, Leonie 42261750 /mob 0428180355

Tim 0422599894, Annette 42716763/ mob 0401089938

Robert 42293462 /mob 0418612280

Church notices: Jennifer Ph.42833630 – or to Con by Tues 2.00pm
ramsajja2@bigpond.com



Wollongong Congregational Church

13th November, 2016

Welcome to all worshipping with us this morning.

Cameron Douglas is leading our service this morning.
Matthew Woolley will lead the evening service at 7pm.

Please continue in fellowship over morning tea after the service.

You are also invited to join us at 7pm for our Evening Service.

ROSTERS

Date	13 Nov	20 Nov
Prayers	-	Jill
Bible Readings	Andrew Joan	Annette Richard
Lawns	Andrew	-
Servers	Janice B Richard	Judy Rob Cathy
Cleaning	-	Cleaners
Morning Tea	Robert Gordon	Cathy Gail
Welcome	Janice	Don
Communion Prep	-	Jill
Crèche	Andrew	Lenore
PowerPoint	Glenn	Annette George
Counting Offering	Wendy	Allan

Prayer Chain.

If you have a request, please ring Wendy, Annette, Robert or Tim.
Phone numbers above.

Offering

October Total Income \$ 6,959.16
October Total Expenditure \$ 4,554.35

Building Fund balance \$11,459.

If you would like to help with the cost of repairs etc please place your gift in an envelope marked Building Fund.
Thank you.

Emergency Food Coordinator

Jill Donnelly 4229 5248

This 4 weeks' regular tithed giving will go to the work of the
TOGO GROUP

Additional gifts may be placed in the plate at any time, using a suitably labelled envelope.

THIS WEEK:

Monday: 12.30 pm: Bible Study at Leigh's

Thursday: 10 am: Home group at Ruth's
9.30 -11am: Playday in the hall

Next Sunday, 20th November

Richard Donnelly will be leading the 10am service

Harry Burgess will lead the 7pm: Evening Service



Sermon 6 November – Le Bon Temps Viendra and 1 Chron 4:9-10

Last Sunday we looked at 2 tales – the story of Jabez and the Farrington motto. I shared how my family motto above means “The good times are coming” and how when my dad was alive the family joke was dad going to the mailbox every day and we asked him if the million-dollar cheque had arrived from the Government to which he replied “not today, but there is always tomorrow”. Way back in time, the family was prosperous having come from France as part of the Norman Conquest when the family name began with a double F. The original motto in France was different and translated “Virtue conquers all things”, yet when we arrived across the channel and settled our own village amidst the ferns we dropped the first F and changed our motto.

Yet the motto has a deeper meaning that I have reflected on in recent times. To say “the good times are coming” is to recognise that sometimes our days are not good—when adversity strikes or when life seems unfair, and dare I say it “we wonder what is God up to, and why has he caused this. On these days we don’t feel that good times are here or even think that they will arrive, but you know one day those good times will arrive. But how do we survive till that day.

The answer is found in the story of Jabez. It appears like an oasis in the midst of a desert comprising the litany of the ancestors of the Jewish people as the Chronicler puts down for prosperity the family trees of the Israelites at the start of his book. Four and a bit chapters into the narrative we find the Story of Jabez. On the surface it appears out of place – this life of a man who refused to allow his name to hold him back and uttered a prayer to God that was answered. Then the litany of names continues. But the reality is that these verses hold the key to how we hold out till the good or prosperous times come.

In times past names were chosen with great care as they dictated the life of those who held them, and so rather than get over the birth of Jabez, his mother dwelt on it every day so much so that Jabez means “I gave birth to him in pain”, Rather than let this negative image drag him down, Jabez became more honourable than his brothers. Then he prayed to God in terms of a personal covenant God who knows us by name and calls us into relationship. Jabez knew God and prayed for 4 things; blessing, enlarge my territory, let your hand be with me, and keep me from evil so I will be free from pain. God granted his request.

I looked at blessing that comes from God in his terms. How to enlarge ones’ territory is to ask for more influence from God. “Let your hand be with me” is the key in this prayer – to have our hand in God’s, like a parent holding their child’s hand crossing the road of life – in that grip is security, love, safety, relationship, trust and a reminder of the footstep poem where God is walking beside us and at times carrying us through life. Today may be chaotic, painful, heartbreaking and dark but God will bring us to good days again. He will keep us from evil. God granted Jabez request and will also do so for us that hold Jesus as our personal saviour and hold God’s hand through life’s ups and downs.

Tim Farrington

Prayer Points

Please pray for;

- ◇ Our Evening Service;
- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel;
- ◇ Wisdom as we move forward with our maintenance program;
- ◇ One new church family;
- ◇ Continue to pray for Jean Millman.
- ◇ For Janice and her son Steve.
- ◇ Ron Ratcliff, in care
- ◇ Gail and Ray Warhola in Hong Kong,
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA ;
- ◇ the Edwards family working in Fiji;
- ◇ Roger Dethlefs working in West Timor ;
- ◇ Our FCC Churches; **Gresford**
- ◇ Church family members; **Helen Lothian**
- ◇ Pray for the needs of Pulse 94.1 FM. Also for the effectiveness of Con’s radio program;
- ◇ Bernice Beekman in hospital,
- ◇ Rest and safe travel for Con and Leonie as they enjoy annual leave.

Tutoring: Do you have a family member or friend requiring assistance with **Mathematics, Chemistry or Science-related subjects?** If so, please contact **Anthony Lang** (B.Sc. Hons. Ph.D.) to discuss tutoring options. Mob. 0432 228 533

Anthony Lang, is associated with the Wollongong Baptist Church.

Diary Dates:

- 4 Dec Final Church meeting for the year**
- 16 Dec School term ends**
- 18 Dec Carols Service 7.30pm**
- 25 Dec 9am Service Christmas Day**

Pastor Con on Pulse 94.1 FM Sunday Worship 7-10am.
Also Tuesdays 10 pm to midnight. Daily devotions 6:45 am.