



Drouin Baptist Church

13 – 15 Bennett Street, Drouin

www.drouinbaptistchurch.org.au

Pastor: Stephen Young 0439 420 201

Sunday 23rd December, 2018

Our Mission:

- Engage** the God-seeker,
- Establish** disciples in community,
- Equip** the saints for service,
- Expand** the Kingdom of God into all the earth.

We hope that you feel at home with us this morning as we collectively focus our hearts, minds and activities on God, and desire only that He be exalted.



The history of Christmas

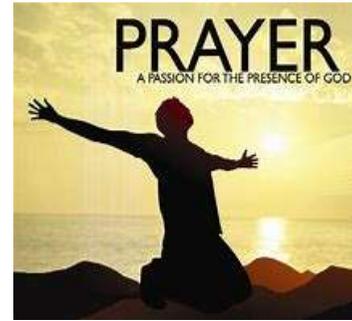
Christmas is a truly Christian holiday that we can celebrate even if it is at the wrong time of the year. It has its roots back in the Old Testament when Isaiah said, “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace...” Isaiah 9:6-7.

Luke tells of the visit of the shepherds to see baby Jesus lying in a manger. They then went and told everybody about what they had seen. This baby grew up, was crucified and rose again from the dead as witnessed by 500 men and He continues to change the hearts and lives of people today.

The early Christians didn’t celebrate Christmas, and the date of His birth is lost to history. In 440AD Pope Julius 1 officially proclaimed 25th December to be the anniversary of Christ’s birth. The choice of this date has been a point of much controversy. However, the celebration of Christmas on this date spread to England by the end of the 6th century.

The birth of Jesus is celebrated on 6th January in the Orthodox Church, on Epiphany, the day that celebrates the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem.

Because the celebration became a time of rowdy festivities and practical jokes, the Puritans in England outlawed Christmas. Today, the Season is a mixture of traditions that come from multiple sources. While many of these are morally neutral activities, we need to ensure that the supreme significance of Christmas is found in the Child Immanuel, God with us, and not in all the trimmings.



The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23

The foundations of prayer

1. Faith in God as God.
Faith must lay hold of God, whatever the circumstances. It has to be learnt when the skies are blue but will be proved when the clouds come. From prison Paul could say, “I know whom I have believed...” The Lord and His faithfulness, rather than his imprisonment, filled Paul’s mind. God is still on the throne, and, like Habakkuk we can trust Him “though the fig tree does not blossom...”

Pilate’s Signet Ring Discovered?

Archaeologists have uncovered a 2,000-year-old copper ring that dates to the time of Christ and may have belonged to Pontius Pilate. The Israeli daily newspaper *Ha’aretz* reports that the letters on the ring spell Pilate or Pilatus in Greek. Though the ring was discovered years ago, the name has been revealed with the use of a special camera at the Israeli Antiquities Authority labs. A Hebrew University professor says Pilatus was a rare name in Israel. He says he doesn’t know of any other Pilatus from the period, and the ring shows that its owner was a person of stature and wealth. Pilate, the Biblical figure who was involved in condemning Jesus to death, was the Roman governor of Judea from 26-36AD.

- Breaking Christian News

Brenda Clearwater’s recent sale of items for Deaf Ministries International raised

\$400.00

“If you are seeking to obey the Lord, expect opposition, expect obstacles, expect difficulties, but also expect God to see you through.” Greg Laurie



Please stay behind after our service this morning for a time of fellowship over tea or coffee – cappuccino, latte, hot chocolate, chai. Soy milk available

We do not need to stack the chairs after our service this morning.

“...Pray for one another...”

Sunday:

Lloyd and Lyn Ronalds

Monday:

Geoffrey and Gwenda Russell

Tuesday:

Gustav and Friedl Schroeder

Wednesday:

Robert and Michaela Sheppard

Thursday:

Adam and Rachel Slattery *Lauren, Callum*

Friday:

Andrew and Jennifer Smeaton *Leah, Jacob*

Saturday:

Ian and Storm Smith

What's on this week

Sunday	10.00am	Worship Service
Tuesday	9.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	10.00am	Worship Service



Christmas Carols Service

7.00pm Tonight

Christmas Day Service

9.30am Tuesday 25th December

Offering received for the work of Baptist World Aid Australia



Save your stamps

For more than 50 years people in Australian Baptist Churches have been collecting and selling stamps to raise money for the work of Global Interaction (around \$70,000 each year!).

Here is how you can help: Cut (not tear) stamps off envelopes, leaving a 5mm margin and give them to Trevor. These will be passed on to Global Interaction and sold to collectors to raise funds.

If every family collected only 5 stamps, on average, we would have a collection of around 400. Every stamp helps except those that are torn or have not been stamped by the Post Office.

Baptist World Aid Gift Cards

It is anticipated that **Australians will spend \$50 billion** in the lead up to Christmas. "They're spending on nostalgic items such as Mickey and Minnie's 90th anniversary. We know they're looking for personalisation and leather emboss goods and tech is definitely in this year. We know that drones are selling out the door and also anything to do with fitness," chief executive Dominique Lamb of the National Retail Association told reporters.



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**
Be love. End poverty.

It is obscene that we should splash so much money on ourselves, while at the same time, millions of people are enslaved by grinding poverty. When Christians get swept up in this materialistic, commercial tsunami it is even worse. We ought to be distinctively different. You can do this by purchasing a gift card from our “**Big Hearted Gifts Stall**” where you can make an incredible difference to people in other parts of the world. Many of them are caught in generational poverty with no prospect of escape unless people like us use our abundant resources to transform their situation. You can purchase gift cards using **cash or card**. Furthermore, your gift is tax deductible if you want to avail yourself of this privilege. Gift cards come in various amounts, depending on the project.

Note that children can be encouraged to purchase a card. Some of them cost as little as \$5.00. This would provide parents with a valuable opportunity to train their children to be God’s agents of grace to people living in deep poverty. Inspiring your child to reach out and meet deep human need could be the best thing you can do for them this Christmas.

One in six people in Drouin is living in poverty. What are we, as a church, doing to engage this demographic, or, more importantly, how can we, as a church, engage this demographic?

Welcome to the world

Abigail Jean Da Costa was born on Wednesday, 19th December @ 10.25pm, weighing 3.90Kg. Mother and baby are doing well. Grandparents, Geoff and Gwenda are really stoked.