



Berwick
ANGLICAN CHURCH

BAC Vision and Values
November 2014

Our vision is that under God,
together at BAC we long to be:

**“Growing in Christ,
Growing in the Word,
Growing in Prayer,
Growing in Mission”**

BAC Core Values:

These four values represent core values which we passionately yearn for God to work in us together as a church. We will pray these values permeate the culture and activities of Berwick Anglican Church as well as our own personal Christian discipleship. They represent both the starting points but also growth directions to strive for by God’s grace.

Each value is unpacked in this booklet with some detailed descriptions as well as some discussion questions.

Core Value 1 - The Gospel of Christ is Worked Out Powerfully In Us

Core Value 2 - The Word of God Dwells Richly Amongst Us

Core Value 3 - A God-Dependent Prayerfulness Abounds Amongst Us

Core Value 4 - A Joyful Passion for Winning the Lost Pervades Us

Growing in Christ

Core Value 1 - The Gospel of Christ is Worked Out Powerfully In Us

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45)

The gospel is the good news of the redemptive death of God’s Son and his victorious resurrection. The work of the cross of Jesus Christ gives us our rescue from slavery to sin, declares us righteous and has made atonement for the punishment we deserve. By embracing the gospel promises we are spiritually raised from death to life, born again and set free to love Christ.

Church life is a constant celebration of the gospel. We are constantly calling ourselves and the world to faith (trust) in Christ alone as the only name under heaven given to men by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). The Biblical sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper are visible reminders of the gospel and who belongs to the gospel community. Our liturgy, singing and prayers are all to be gospel expressions.

The gospel is not just the beginning of the Christian life but the means by which we are powerfully transformed by God. Power and effectiveness in Christian living is only through the gospel. The gospel shapes our relationships with each other: it causes us to desire to serve and glorify Christ rather than desire to be served and seek self-recognition. The gospel is also the basis upon which we pursue reconciliation with each other - we forgive as Christ has forgiven us.

Exploration Questions:

1. Does everyone at BAC rejoice in Jesus’ loving death in their place and rely on the cross wholeheartedly?
2. Are we each, according to our maturity, able to give an answer for the hope we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15)?
3. Is there anything we do at BAC that obscures the clarity of the gospel? How can we announce the gospel more clearly to more people?

Growing in the Word

Core Value 2 - The Word of God Dwells Richly Amongst Us

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom” (Colossians 3:16)

“Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.” (Psalm 119:97)

“... be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2)

Our Anglican heritage presents us with a model of church services that not just includes set Bible readings but also scatters promises of God’s word throughout the service and sets the Bible into corporate prayers.

Expository preaching and study is a means by which we can enjoy the syllabus of God’s Word as he has presented it to us - working through the Bible book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. BAC services and growth groups have an exciting “danger” in that we allow the Bible to set the agenda. We also seek to let the Bible authoritatively address issues and topics facing us in the 21st century.

The Bible also ought to saturate the life of the individual Christian. God has promised to always speak to us through his Word, which is the powerful sword of the Spirit. Christian disciples are made mature through growing in knowledge of the Word with the result of wisdom in godly living. Only living by the Bible carefully can protect us from being deceived by the world or by our own sinfulness.

As our society becomes more secularised and antagonistic to Christianity, a higher demand is placed upon us to be Biblically discerning. Whereas once a basic Sunday school knowledge of Scripture might suffice for living in a world sympathetic to Christian ethics, as 21st century disciples we need to develop our Christian mind as far as God has gifted us.

Exploration Questions:

1. Are we a church that feasts on God’s Word?
2. Are we hungry to learn the whole counsel of God and grow further in the Word?
3. Is reading the Bible a regular part of our daily living? Are our households reading the Bible together regularly?
4. Is the message of the Bible the bread-and-butter of our ministry to children, youth and adults?

Growing in Prayer

Core Value 3 - A God-Dependent Prayerfulness Abounds Amongst Us

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:5)

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up...” (Luke 18:1)

Prayer is the genuine cry and response to God from those who know they need him for everything. Because of the redemptive work of the Son in the gospel, access is opened to God the Father to approach his throne of grace in the power of the Holy Spirit. The promises of Scripture contain God's continual invitation for us to pray boldly.

Prayer is primarily bringing our needs to God, however a healthy relationship with God also includes adoration, confession and thanksgiving. Spontaneous thankful prayer is a mark of healthy conversations within our Christian community. Exuberant and joyful singing in corporate worship is another significant expression of God-dependent prayerfulness.

Prayer is one means of partnering with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who in suffering bear the name of Jesus. Faithful prayer is also our response to suffering, not despairing, but relying more wholeheartedly on God in Christ.

Exploration Questions:

1. What do our personal prayer habits reveal about our progress in Christian discipleship and love for Christ?
2. How often do we see people praying for each other one-to-one after a service?
3. Is there evidence that in our gathering the common prayer and singing are heartfelt and enthusiastic?

Growing in Mission

Core Value 4 - A Joyful Passion For Winning The Lost Pervades Us

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10)

BAC is situated in the middle of the one of the largest suburban growth corridors in all of Australia. We are surrounded by a sea of new housing which brings especially new families and new retirees. The largest proportion of our population are not Bible believing Christians. The vast majority of those under 40 do not even have a basic Sunday school knowledge of Christianity. With so many who face an eternity without Christ, the gospel need is urgent.

At BAC we want to avoid the trap of falling into a default state of inward focus. As God sends a constant stream of visitors to BAC, we desire to go out of our way to befriend and include them in our life together. Moreover, we seek to show the sacrificial love of Christ in investing in connecting in mission and evangelism into the wider Casey community.

BAC members live their lives in the city of Melbourne representing Christ and serving him as Lord in all that they do. They are to have the aroma of Christ about them - helping them to shine like stars in their particular vocations and hold out the word of life with the hope of the gospel spreading through them.

BAC values global Christian missions that seek to make known the gospel of Christ, alleviate physical needs in the name of Christ, and to support the global church which is the bride of Christ. The support of global Christian missions is fruit of sacrificial love for the outsider.

Exploration Questions:

1. In what ways can we show extravagant welcome to our visitors?
2. Have you invited anyone to BAC in the last 12 months? How did it go?
3. Do we understand what the experience of visiting our community for the first time is like? What are the barriers to visitor integration into BAC?
4. What are the needs in our community that our church can help meet, which will build bridges back to our church and hearing the gospel?

Suggested Christian reading list:

Core Value 1 - The Gospel of Christ is Worked Out Powerfully Amongst Us

"The Prodigal God - Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith", Tim Keller, 2008.

"Concise Theology", J. I. Packer.

"The Cross of Christ", John Stott.

Core Value 2 - The Word of God Dwells Richly Amongst Us

"Knowing God", J. I. Packer, IVP, 1993.

"Hearing God's Words: Exploring Biblical Spirituality (New Studies in Biblical Theology)", Peter Adam, IVP Academic, 2004.

Core Value 3 - A God-Dependent Prayerfulness Abounds Amongst Us

"Do You Pray?", JC Ryle. Available on BAC bookstall and website.

"Bold I Approach - The Why and How of Prayer", Tony Payne, Matthias Media, 1996.

"A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers", Don Carson, Baker Academic, 1992.

Core Value 4 - A Joyful Passion for Winning the Lost Pervades Us

"Know and Tell the Gospel", John Chapman, Matthias Media, 2002.

"Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions", John Piper, Baker Academic, 2010.

Berwick Anglican Church Doctrinal Confessions:

The Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed

39 Articles of Religion

1662 Book of Common Prayer

Notes:



www.berwickanglicanchurch.org.au

55 Peel St, Berwick, 3806
9707 1105
info@berwickanglicanchurch.org.au