

Grace Community Baptist Church
Wamberal

Church Profile
&
Vision Statement

April 2011

Grace Community Baptist Church

Wamberal

Vision Statement

Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal aims to serve, equip and empower people to reach their Godly potential in an atmosphere of grace within the context of community

Mission Statement

Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal exists to Love God, Love people, make disciples across the Central Coast and beyond.

To activate and release Faith through Jesus to exercise

The Five Fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Shepherd/Pastor, Evangelist)

Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor 12:28

Gifts of the Spirit

Acts 2:2; Rom 12; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4; Luke 24; 2 Kg 6

Fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:22-26

Stewardship of God's abundant supply

Phil 4:19

Three Dimensional Christianity (Relationship, Knowledge, Power)

Jn 8:31-32; 14:6; 14:12; 1 Cor 2:5

To fulfil the Great Commission

Mat 28:18-20; Mk 16:14-18

1. OUR PURPOSE

The Purpose of Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal is to honour God in community and relationship with each other.

1.1. We Honour God by Acknowledging who He is

“Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Revelation 4:9-11

Jesus came to release us into His purpose for our lives.

Jesus compares His ministry of salvation to that of the prince of this world, satan. He boldly states, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

John 10:10

This fullness is found by following our Lord’s direction for our lives. When He calls us to deny ourselves and follow Him (Luke 9:23-26) He is directing us to deliberately choose a path that is promised by His covenant to produce a life filled with meaning, a sense of purpose and much joy. *“Those who honour Me, I will honour”* 1 Samuel 2:30

The Scriptures teach that obedience is the secret of true life:

“Honour the Lord with your wealth,

with the first fruits of all your crops;

then your barns will be filled to overflowing,

and your vats will brim over with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10

Those who are born again are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who empowers us and directs us to live a new life.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies!” 1

Corinthians 6:19-20

1.2. We Honour God by Celebrating His Presence (Worship)

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” Matt 4:10

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

Our Expressions of Worship

Singing (Eph. 5:19)

Praying (Ps. 95:6)

Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

Meditating (Hab 2:20)

Hearing the Word (John 17:17)

Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)

Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:23-26)

Our Worship Style

Celebration (Isaiah 40:31)

Inspiration (Psalm 122:1)

Preparation (Eph 4:11-12)

1.3. We Honour God by Communicating His Word (Evangelism)

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...” Eph 3:10

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Rom 10:13-14

1.4. We Honour God by Educating God's People (Discipleship)

“Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity...” Heb 6:1

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:11-13

1.5. We Honour God by Demonstrating His Love (Ministry)

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17; Matt 25:34-40; Heb 13:16; Rom 12:13

The heartbeat of a church is its members' commitment to each other. Every member needs to be a part of a ministering group.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ... Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Cor. 12:4-5, 27

Every person, although gifted differently, is equally important.

2. OUR COMMITMENT

Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal is committed to:

2.1. Loving

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ as HEAD of His Church

“And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him (Jesus) to be Head over everything for the Church, which is His Body...” Ephesians 1:22

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. Anyone who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” John 14:21

Loving one another in the Body of Christ

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12 and *“This is my command: love each other”* John 15:17

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

Loving the world Jesus Christ died to save

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15

2.2. Engaging in Relationship

To engage in relationship with God, including loving the Lord Jesus Christ as Head of His Church and gathering together to serve, praise, listen to, pray to and experience God.

To engage in relationship with one another, including sharing our faith with each other and caring for each other at whatever is each person’s point of need.

To engage in relationship with those outside the church, including sharing our faith so that they might place their faith in Jesus and caring for them at what ever is their point of need.

3. OUR PRIORITIES

To enjoy an intimate, loving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

To seek the ministry and renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

To be an up to date, relevant, dynamic, evangelistic, growing and caring Christian community.

To be a people of prayer and worship.

To disciple, equip and release believers for effective ministry.

To bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our local community.

To bring the love of Christ to the poor.

Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal is a renewal style fellowship affiliated with the Baptist Union of NSW and ACT. We are an evangelical church and welcome the freedom of the Holy Spirit. We seek to combine mind, body and heart in the way we express our Christian faith. Committed to the Bible as the authority for our faith and practice, we are also charismatic in our desire for and use of spiritual gifts. Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal seeks to experience the renewing of the Holy Spirit and a significant outpouring of the Father's blessing; we are a Fellowship that seeks to grow and be renewed in all areas. We pray for revival in our community. Our heart is to see all people (men, women and children) come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, grow to maturity in their faith and become effective servants of God's Kingdom. In this process we will help people to experience the fullness of God's Spirit at work within them, so that they might experience what they believe.

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” Hebrews 12:1-2

4. OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT (What we practice)

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices.

4.1. The Bible as our sole authority

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God’s people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim 3:16-17

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

4.2. Autonomy of each local Church

“And he is the head of the body, the church...” Col 1:18

Christ is the recognised head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organisation. While recognising the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing, yet interdependent with other churches and with our denomination.

4.3. Priesthood of every believer

“...To him who loves us, and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father” Rev. 1:5-6

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to represent Christ in every field and aspect of their life. Therefore, we encourage every Christian to find a place of service and ministry within the body of Christ.

4.4. Total Giving

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price.” 1 Cor 6:19-20

“On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” 1 Cor. 16.2

We recognise that everything we possess belongs to the Lord. We encourage every Christian to practise percentage giving. The more we earn, the more we give.

4.5. Baptism by Immersion

“... having been buried with him (Christ) in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your

faith in the working of God..." Col 2:12

We practise baptism by immersion under water – the way Jesus was baptised.

4.6. Spirit-led living:

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practise a daily dependence on the Holy Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Phil. 2: 13, Eph. 5:18)

4.7. Telling others about Christ (Evangelism)

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice both event and relationship evangelism.

Event Evangelism – we support to our fullest evangelistic programs in our community.

Relationship Evangelism – we personally seek to share our journeys, the trials and the blessings, with others, both Christian and non-Christian. By our words and actions we seek to share the truth of Jesus Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Partner in Ministry Covenant

I have read the Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal Profile and Vision Statement and I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to partner in ministry with the Grace Community Baptist Church Wamberal family.

In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other Partners in Ministry of this community of grace, to work together toward fulfilling our shared Vision and Mission.

Signed

Date