

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract design. It features a dense network of thin, light-colored lines that form a grid-like pattern. Overlaid on this are numerous small, dark arrows pointing in various directions, creating a sense of movement and connectivity. The color palette is primarily light blues and greys, with a subtle gradient that transitions from a pale blue at the top to a slightly darker blue at the bottom. A soft, warm glow emanates from the bottom left corner, blending into the overall design.

# SH BC

SHERWOOD HILLS  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
INFORMATION GUIDE

## *Message from the Pastor*

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let me first say, "thank you" for looking into the ministry of Sherwood Hills Baptist Church. Sherwood Hills Baptist Church is a Historic Independent Baptist Church.

This booklet will allow you to become acquainted with the ministries of Sherwood Hills Baptist Church. We have ministries that cater for every age and every need. You will find people who love the Lord and have a deep desire to continue the work of our Lord in seeking the lost and leading them to an eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.

Let me say personally that if you would desire a more detailed explanation of our church, Bible Doctrine or spiritual help, please feel free to schedule an appointment through our office.

May the Lord bless you and guide you in His perfect will.

In His Service,

Pastor Don Stewart

I Cor. 15:58

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# Sherwood Hills Baptist Church

Sherwood Hills Baptist Church is an organised congregation of born again and scripturally baptised believers carrying out the Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as found in Matthew 28:18-20. She has the Lord Jesus Christ as her Founding Head, the Word of God as her authority and the Pastor as her Undershepherd. Her adherence to Biblical doctrines and practices identifies with and traces her roots to the church that Jesus Christ founded during His personal earthly ministry.

## Objectives

To work in unity through the leadership of the Pastor towards the spiritual maturity of all members so that, in turn, each one may contribute to every area of the ministry, thereby building up the whole church.

### Ephesians 4:12

- Evangelism
- Edification
- Exhortation

## Mission

Our mission is clearly defined in the Bible in Matthew 28:18-20. Authority is given to the church to:

1. **GO**, that is deliver the message of salvation to the whole world.
2. **BAPTISE**, there is only one baptism, Ephesians 4:5, and that is under and by the authority of a local New Testament church.
3. **TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS**, which is to disciple all new converts, grounding them in the Word of God.

This mission is to be carried out faithfully through a New Testament church until Jesus comes.

## Vision

Keeping our vision is a daily and lifelong objective. The Bible states that where there is no vision the people perish Proverbs 29:18.

What will keep us focused to see things as Jesus saw them? It is to be in the Word daily. It is the Word of God that instructs, comforts, rebukes, increases our faith and enlarges our vision. Our vision and burden is to reach a lost and dying world which needs the Saviour.



## History

On 13th December, 1969, Pastor John G. White and his family arrived in Sydney, Australia and settled in Campbelltown, NSW. They started their Mission Ministry as a Sunday School in a tent on Bradbury Green on 8th November, 1970. The tent ministry continued until the local Kindergarten was built on The Parkway, Bradbury, in 1971.

The first family worship service was conducted on 19th March, 1972, in the local Kindergarten. The services continued there until the Sherwood Hills Baptist Church building was completed on Jacaranda Avenue, Bradbury, on 14th December, 1975. The entire building was completed by church volunteer labour.

The dedication service for the church building was held on 14th December, 1975. In attendance was the Lord Mayor of Campbelltown, Gordon Fetterplace, and the local member of the State Parliament, Mr. Kerrin, M.P., who assisted the Mayor in cutting the ribbon.

Sherwood Hills Baptist Church was officially organised as part of the Watch Night Service on 31st December, 1975.

## Offices

There are two Biblical offices mentioned in Scripture namely Pastor and Deacons.

The office of the Pastor is threefold, derived from three titles as given in New Testament. The first being Pastor whose role is guide and guard. The second is Bishop, which is one who manages and the third is Elder as one of spiritual maturity who presides over the church.

### Pastor Don Stewart

Pastor Stewart was ordained to the ministry in 1976. He pastored in the USA before moving to Australia in 1989 to establish churches and train men for the ministry.

Pastor Stewart has established four churches, led three churches through building programs, served as Headmaster of Christian schools and has conducted Bible Institute programs. Pastor Stewart has preached in over 270 churches and 5 countries.

Pastor Stewart came to Sherwood Hills Baptist Church in October 2008 after serving for 19 years at Emmanuel Baptist Church and Valley Baptist Church, Canberra.

He and his wife, Luonna were married in 1972. They have three married sons and are proud grandparents.

## Deacons

The office of deacon was instituted in Acts 6 and is a position understood to be that of a servant.

Deacons play a vital role of service within a church. They were under the immediate direction of the Apostles (today, Pastor). They were to help relieve the burden so that the Apostles (today, Pastor) could give priority to the study of the Word of God and prayer.

We have two great deacons in our church who certainly do a good job and understand their role.



## Church Covenant

On profession of our Faith, having been baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into a covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its Pastor, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world by methods in harmony with Acts 11:22, 13:1-4, 14:25-28.

We engage to maintain family and secret prayer, to religiously train our children, to seek the salvation of the unsaved about us, to walk openly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, upright in our deportment, to avoid tattling, back-biting and excessive anger, to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offence but always ready to reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## Christian Responsibilities

- To your God and Lord:** You are to love, honour and serve Him. You are to reverence and obey Him and His Word.
- To your Bible:** Since it is the Word of God, you must read it regularly and systematically, and you must apply to your life what you read.
- To your Church:** You are to attend regularly and to pray for the ministries, leaders and workers; you are to support and participate in her many activities and projects. You are to give her freely and cheerfully of your time, talent and money.
- To your Pastor:** You are to stand by him, pray for him and encourage him. You are to help him all that you can.
- To the unbeliever:** You must live a godly, spotless, consistent life before the world. You are to pray daily for unbelievers and to witness to them of what Christ has done for you.
- Since millions have never heard of Christ, you are to pray, and you are to give of your substance so that missionaries may go to them with the gospel.
- To fellow believers:** You are to pray for them, help them with their burdens, and conduct yourself as an example to them.
- To yourself:** You are to grow spiritually, to progress in your Christian life, and to strive toward maturity.

## Conduct During Services

*...know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth... 1 Timothy 3:15b*

- Before coming to Church, prepare your heart and mind to honour and worship God, through prayer.
- Wear appropriate dress that is God-honouring – modest apparel for ladies and neat clothes for men. Wear your best when you come to the house of God, especially on Sunday, the Lord's Day (1Cor 14:40, 1 Tim 2:9-10).
- Take it upon yourself to be in the auditorium before the service or classes begin.
- To maintain the solemnity of services, switch off mobiles or put these on silent mode.
- While the service is going on, most particularly during the preaching, avoid walking around, eating, or talking unnecessarily. Roaming around the church premises during the services is discouraged.
- Sing with the congregation, following the song leader. During the "invitation time", nobody should move around or leave the auditorium. Everyone is encouraged to pray in response to the preaching of God's Word, and for the lost.
- After the service, everyone is encouraged to fellowship or shake hands with one another during morning tea.

## What We Believe

1. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men, divinely inspired and is allsufficient rules/verbal & plenary of faith and practice.
2. There is one and only one living and true God. In the Unity of the God Head, there are three personalities, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, each executing, distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.
3. All individuals by nature are sinners.
4. A Church is a local congregation of immersed believers covenanted together for the purpose of carrying out the commission given by Christ.
5. Salvation of sinners is completely of grace, (not works) through the Mediatorial Offices of the Son of God.
6. All persons will be eternally saved at the time they repent of their sins and trust Christ to save them personally. These believers will live in Heaven with Christ.
7. All persons that ultimately reject the plan of salvation set forth by God in His Word shall be doomed eternally to hell.
8. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of the virgin Mary.
9. The first day each week should be kept sacred for religious purposes.
10. Mission work is the responsibility of the local Church. Churches may cooperate together for carrying out this work. The Missionary must be sent and directed by one local Church. Other Churches may help on a purely voluntary basis. We consider organic entities such as Unions, Missions Boards, Conventions and Corporations that

usurp unto themselves ordination, other power, authority, and direct control over the energies of local Churches to be non-scriptural, in as much as they are man made. We consider our Church an absolutely independent and autonomous congregation and not part of the Australian Baptist Union or any other denomination.

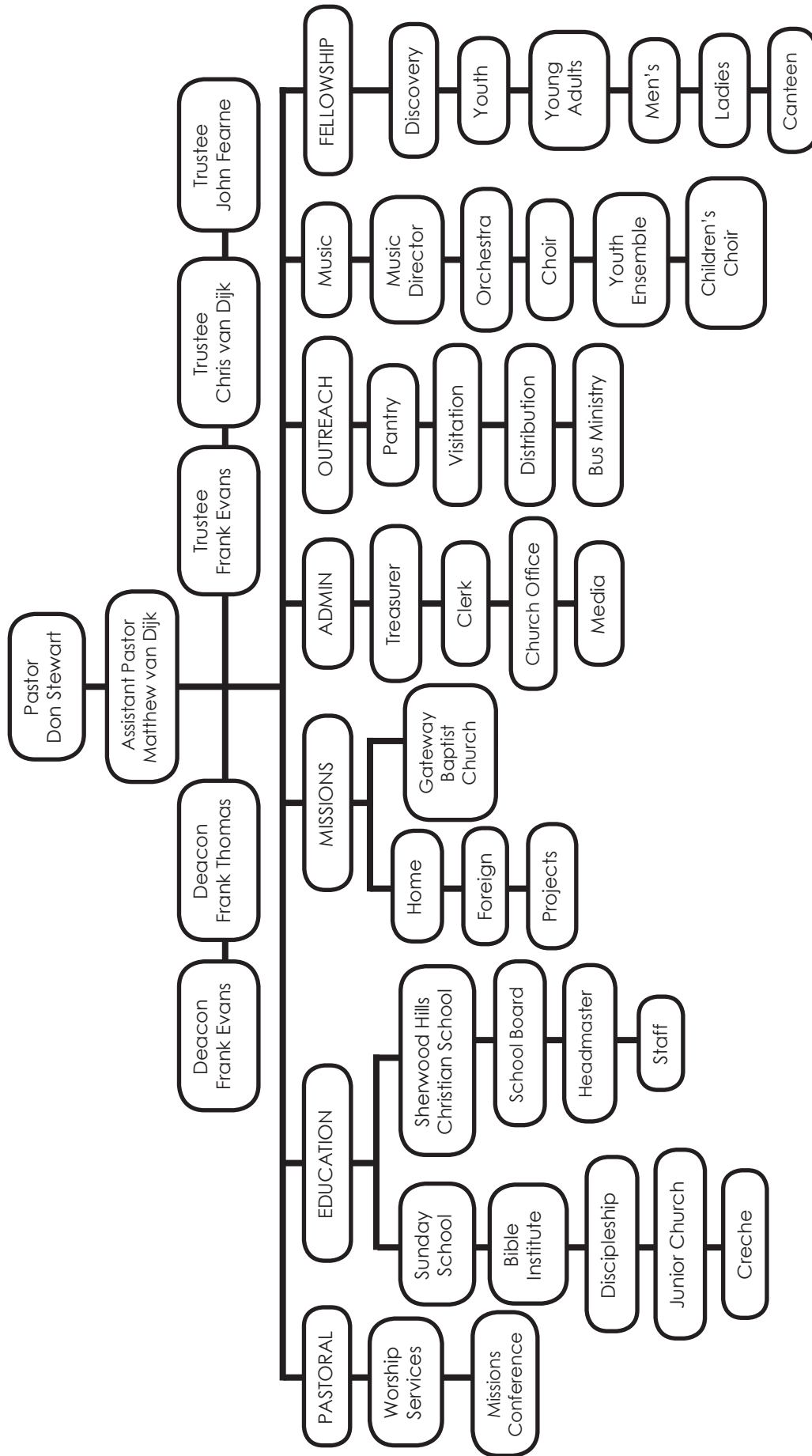
11. The end of the world is approaching and we believe that Christ will come and awaken his children from the dead, change the living saints and call them up to meet Him in the air. After which will ensue on the earth a period of great tribulation. In Heaven, the Marriage of the Lamb will take place. After that, Christ will come to earth and establish his Millennial Kingdom and reign a thousand years over all the earth.
12. Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer by the authority of Christ. This authority is vested in a local Church or congregation of baptised believers. Baptism shows forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the Saviour, with faith's effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

Baptism is prerequisite to the privilege of Church relations, and the Lord's Supper in which the faithful members of the Church by sacred use of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine are to commemorate together, the un-dying Love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

13. Sanctification is the process by which we are made partakers of God's holiness. It is a progressive work begun at regeneration, carried on in the hearts of believers, by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and the Sealer and Comforter, in the continued use of the appointed means – especially, the Word of God, Self-examination, self denial, watchfulness and prayer.

# Sherwood Hills Baptist Church

## Organisational Chart





## Ministries

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God.”  
(Romans 12:1&2)

Sherwood Hills Baptist Church believes that service is an integral part of being a Baptist. Through Christian service, a person demonstrates and reinforces his separation from worldly ways. At the same time, consistent Christian service indicates a reformed mindset, one that seeks to please God always. Sherwood Hills Baptist Church ministries are in place to allow Christians, in the spirit of humility, to find their places within the overall task of the New Testament Church – that of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Every member is encouraged to support and to participate in any of the ministries. Among these are:

- Education Ministry
- Outreach
- Missions
- Music
- Media Ministry
- Fellowship Ministries

## Education

### Bible Institute

Sherwood Hills Baptist Church Bible Institute is dedicated to the principle that the local church is God's organisation for the equipping of the preacher and the layman alike for the work of the ministry.

Here at SHBC we are prepared to offer Biblical systematic instruction for the man preparing for the pastoral ministry, church-planting ministry, missionary work or to be better trained to serve the Lord as a layman; or for the lady who desires to prepare herself for appropriate ministry, or simply further her education.

Our programs offer a convenient schedule of comprehensive Bible courses coupled with opportunities for practical involvement in various church ministries. It is ideal for men or women preparing for the ministry or for those who simply want to further their Bible knowledge for the purpose of service in the local church. Courses may be taken for credit or audit. Our courses range from doctrinal to practical and vary in length.

Sherwood Hills Baptist Church Bible Institute is distinctively Baptist in theology and practice. We believe the Bible is able to fully meet the needs of every individual. We do not apologise for the "faith once delivered to the saints." If you desire to be better trained to serve the Lord as a layman or to prepare for a full-time ministry, you should contact us for further information.

### Discipleship

This could be one-on-one or small group discipleship that aims to help the believer grow in knowledge of the Lord Jesus and equip the believer to serve Him effectively.

## Junior Church

Junior Church is designed to train children aged 4-8 on the proper way to behave during church services. It is set out in the similar manner as an ordinary church service, in terms of singing songs/hymns and a message. It is focused on Scripture memory and Question and Answer time.

## Creche

Creche is designed as a nurturing and welcoming place for children aged 0-3 to play in while their parents/carers are attending Sunday Worship services.

## Sherwood Hills Christian School

Sherwood Hills Christian School was established to provide quality education, but more importantly, it was established to provide a Christian environment for children to learn and grow in the Lord.

## Sunday School

Sunday School is a teaching ministry that caters to all age levels from pre-school kids to adults. Continuing lessons covering the books of the Bible are the main features of this ministry for high school students up, while the children's program follow a curriculum.

The Sunday School classes are divided into seven classes:

- Adults
- Primary
- High School
- 2s & 3s
- Young Adults
- Middler
- Junior

## Fellowship

Fellowship Groups are designed as mutual support groups for Christians to congregate so that we may encourage, edify, and strengthen one another. As a unit, we may become greater witnesses for the Lord and representatives of Sherwood Hills Baptist Church

## Discovery Club

Discovery Club is a Bible based youth club for children in Kindergarten through Year 6.

The main purpose of Discovery is twofold:

1. An evangelism tool to reach young people in the Macarthur area with the Gospel of Christ.
2. To train our own young people as future youth and church leaders and to equip them to share the gospel with those around them.

## Men

The Men's Ministry brings men together for fellowship as men of the church. It is an opportunity to discuss church matters and business facing the church. Primary activities are Men's Steak Night and Men's Prayer Breakfast.

## Ladies

The Ladies' Ministry endeavors to create an atmosphere where women can come together as unit to serve the Lord. A key aspect of the Ladies Ministry is Prayer. It is also a great place for fellowship where friendships deepen and love for one another grows.

## Young Adults

The Young Adults Ministry was established to utilise the skills and talents university students and young professionals have developed for the ministry. The Young Adults Ministry's goal is to ensure every individual member is involved and serving in the church.

## Youth

Youth is set up as a regular event where Christian Youth can fellowship together and encourage one another to continue serving God by sharing Christ to other youth through this ministry.

## Media

The Media Ministry works across a range of media to enhance the opportunities to spread the gospel to as many people as possible through:

- Church Website
- Church Service Live Streaming via Website
- Production of Audio-Video Presentations
- Reproduction of Sermons and Special Events onto DVDs

## Missions

SHBC supports mission works of like faith in Australia and overseas. We also have our own mission work, Gateway Baptist Church, in West Wyalong. The members support this ministry by way of praying for those in the mission works and giving their love offerings and faith promise giving.

### Australia

- Gateway Baptist Church, West Wyalong
- Missionary Ed Brown
- Pastor Chris Manassis
- Pastor John Van Der Spek
- Pastor David Winter
- Pastor Frank Tottingham
- Pastor Graham Thomas

### Retired

- Pastor John White

### Cambodia

- Pastor Leo Tago

### Fiji

- Pastor Kory Mears
- Pastor Nikola Serewai

### Paraguay

- Pastor Sherwin Ramos

### Philippines

- Pastor Eli Paglinawan
- Pastor Florencio Plaza
- Pastor Rodolfo Samson

### Tonga

- Pastor Bob Buster

### Tuvalu

- Pastor Charles Lawson

### Projects

- Bearing Precious Seed
- Macedonian Missions
- South American Radio Ministry



## Music

The Music Ministry aims to both edify the body as well as develop a culture of Praise and Worship within the congregation as a whole. It is our prayer that all age groups will participate and be involved in aspects of the music ministry.

The Music Ministry covers a number of key areas within the church:

- Adult Choir
- Youth Ensemble
- Children's Choir
- Baby Choir
- Men's Choir
- Church Orchestrea
- Specials

Faithfulness in this ministry and the willingness to learn are more important than the ability to read musical notes. The latter ability shall be honed through practice. Interested members who would like to join may approach the Music Director at any time.

## Outreach

### Distribution

The Distribution of John and Romans is our opportunity to saturate the Macarthur Region with the Word of God. Members are encouraged to actively participate.

### Pantry Fund

The Pantry Fund was established to assist families who are in need. Church families in need are given priority, but assistance to outsiders is considered upon review. Assistance is primarily given in the form of care packages which contain non-perishable food and a few essential items.

## God wants you to be saved!

- Salvation:** To be saved from a great peril, or destruction - Hell.
- Saviour:** The one who saves.
- To be saved:** To have cried out to God to be forgiven, trusting in Jesus Christ alone.
- Jesus Saves:** Nobody else, not even ourselves.  
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.  
Ephesians 2:8-9
- Faith:** A simple trust whereby we take God at His Word.
- Repentance:** Having a change of mind about our sin, we feel sorry and remorseful about our sins. We are then able to acknowledge to God that we have lived opposed to His way; and that we desire with His help, to become a follower of Jesus.
- Grace:** God's unmerited and undeserved favour. Grace is amazing because God gives us His love and friendship as a gift, to all who are willing to embrace Him.
- Christian:** One who has been saved by the grace of God. One who can distinctly remember a time in their life when they admitted to God that they were a sinner, and accepted Jesus Christ as their very own Saviour.
- Sin:** To break God's Holy law, whereby we become a sinner and an enemy of God.
- Salvation:** Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, whereby we can become friends with God.

### Get saved today!

If you have any questions,  
please feel free to speak with Pastor Stewart.



## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday School - 9.30 AM

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM & 6 PM

Wednesday Kid's Club 6 PM – 7:30 PM  
(during regular school terms)

Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 PM

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