

The Summit



Banded Peak—Bragg Creek



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The Summit is a bimonthly newsletter for the Bragg Creek Community Church. Contributions made for the Nov./Dec. edition:

- Pastor Dave Zimmerman
- Pastor Cristin Block
- Peter Hunt
- Anne Wilson
- Carol Scarratt

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Trail Notes

Do you remember show and tell in grade school?

Half the problem I had with it is actually remembering to bring something. I would get to class and see everyone with their cool fire engine trucks and stuffed animals and I would quickly have to dig through my pockets, desk and locker looking for my “special” “lucky” paper clip/ fuzz ball.

I like the way Nathaniel’s class does it, they end up bringing things that start with a particular letter of the alphabet. (X-Rays become a hot commodity once a year.)

One thing I kind of like that childhood activity is that it gives us a good pattern to follow when it comes down to sharing this great message of Jesus Christ. Probably the greatest and most powerful ways to share the good news is to live it.

To have Jesus be present with every action as you abide with him is incredible. Unfortunately it is also one of the most powerful ways to push people away from Jesus as well. I hate to think that someday someone might use my life as an excuse as to why they didn’t become a follower of Jesus. Actions do speak louder than words and it is imperative that we make sure our lives don’t keep people out of the kingdom.

However, to think that actions alone are all we need is quite naive and a little arrogant. Jesus, the one who presented perfection, lived out still communicated the good news by preaching and teaching.

So in our lives, even when we are able to be used as example, we need to be prepared to give an account of our love. **Colossians 4:5 says, “Make the most of your chances to tell others the Good News.”**

It is one thing to have someone say, “that person, has a peace that I want” or “so and so seems to be balanced,” and it’s quite another to be able to see that and decide to repent and follow Jesus.

People need to have the way verbalized. They need to be told that your life isn’t the way it is because you are well disciplined or have some extraordinary personality, but rather you are trying to abide with Jesus in everything that you do.

So what do you say? How about a little bit of show and tell?

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Till next time,
Pastor Dave

Streams of Thanksgiving

Gratitude from VBS donations

**Dear BCCC, Thank you for blessing the SEED
Dear David,**

Thank you for blessing with you gift of 23 bags of clothing items and 14 boxes of food items. Your donation will help essential services and programs to Calgary’s less fortunate. Your gifts can easily help to change lives and provide hope for our guests and residents. A gift like your can go long way as it did for “Peter”:

“Peter” kept all his belongings in a green garbage bag. One afternoon when “Peter” was sleeping, his bag was stolen, along with all his personal belongings, which was everything he had. “Peter” came to the SEED for dinner that day and by coincidence someone had donated a few backpacks. Volunteers were filling the backpacks with socks, toothpaste, a new towel, deodorant, and soap. “Peter” told The SEED staff what happened and was offered a backpack, which he gratefully accepted. “Peter’s” new backpack helped to bring him more confidence, dignity, and hope for a better life.

You gifts are truly appreciated by guests like “Peter”. Thank you for blessing our ministry with essential and, potentially, life changing goods.

Your partner in changing lives,

**Del Bannerman
Development Office**



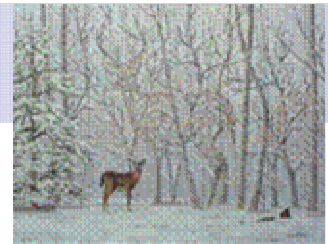
At the Peak

- Please pray for everyone who is going through health concerns this time of year.
- Pray for our missionaries in Mexico the Neufelds as they continue to serve.
- Pray for Mayer family who just went through a tragic loss.
- Pray for BCCC AGM as we look at being good stewards with our resources and look to God for him to do something amazing this next year.
- Pray for new leadership and ministry teams.



Join us for our AGM Sunday Service on February 19th at 10:30am followed immediately by the AGM. This is a chance to Discover how we are doing, where we are going and how we are reaching our mission.

Fellow Hikers: Carol Scaratt
A win-win opportunity



Future Editors of Fellow Hikers

Hello everyone!

I have lived in Bragg Creek for over 7 years, have been a member of Bragg Creek Community Church for a little over 2 years and serve on the Congregational Care Committee.

Last January, after an absence of some thirty years, I decided to go back to school, and enrolled in a graduate degree program with Royal Roads University in Sooke, Victoria.
<http://www.royalroads.ca>

In pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training (commonly referred to as MALT), my plan is to enhance my ability to work in my chosen field as a trainer of Montessori educators and enter semi-retirement as a consultant to non-profit organizations encountering change.

A major part of the second year of the degree program is a research project (thesis), to be based on something of real value to my community. Naturally, I immediately thought of BCCC and how this would enable me to contribute a missionary project right in my own community.

“As far as church growth is concerned, lay liberation has opened up fantastic new possibilities. If laypeople become excited about what they can do for God and for their church, the sky is the limit” (Wagner 1984, p.80 cited by Rainer 1993, p.195).

The idea of a research project entitled “Building Shared Vision through Appreciative Enquiry: A Congregational Journey”, has been enthusiastically received by Council and my faculty advisor and with your support will be implemented in May of 2006.

“ ... Be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”
 (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Studies are all-consuming and going very well. At this time, the Research Project Proposal is nearing completion and will be reviewed by RRU early in 2006.

“All research that involves the use of human subjects must be reviewed and approved by RRU’s ethical research Ethics Board through completion and submission of the Request for Ethical Review Learners must protect and respect the privacy and confidentiality of all participants involved ...”
 (Royal Roads University, 2005).

I have presented an outline of the proposal to BCCC Council, and, at their suggestion, will be working with Peter Hunt in further designing the research process and questions that will form the basis of the research. I am indeed blessed to have the support and guidance of the entire leadership of BCCC.

Thank you for embracing this opportunity and supporting me in my desire to meet the challenge and live my dream.

This is an exciting project for the church and will involve many hours of interviewing all congregation members from May to September 2006, with an interim report likely in July and a formal report finalized by December.

Working with my professor Dr. David Reagan in Victoria, I and BCCC, will have access to lots of experience and expertise in the area of research. Pastor Dave and Peter Hunt have already been so generous with their time, leadership expertise and resources. Thank you - I am indeed fortunate.

I will be looking for input from as many members of the congregation as possible and while the research itself will not begin just yet, I thought you would like some advance notice. I look forward to sharing more with you in the New Year.

“Indeed, when we listen with sensitivity to the aspirations of others we discover that there are common values that link everyone together” (Kouzes & Posner 2002, p. 151).

Yours in Christ
Carol Scaratt
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Around the Bend and Over the Hill

December — Don’t miss our Christmas activities

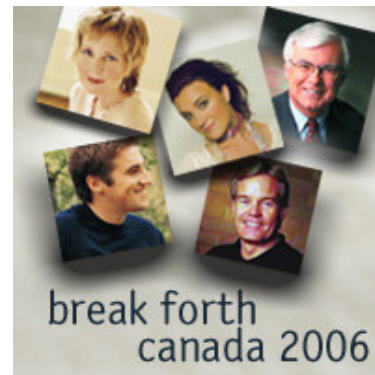
- Christmas Dinner
- Christmas Eve 7pm
- Old fashioned Christmas Sunday 9:30-10:30am

January

- 27-29th Breakforth Canada in Edmonton

February

- **24th BCCC Annual General meeting**



Youth Ministry—How Much?

"The BC3 is dedicated to encouraging youth to become followers of Jesus Christ who are fully committed to His message, Church, and life."

If you are interested in getting involved in the BC3 or want more info about our Friday and special events then call me at 949-4976.

Pastor Cris



YC2006

YC Alberta 2006
May 26 - 28, 2006
Edmonton, Alberta
Watch for details
<http://www.ycgeneration.com>

How Much?

I sat down with some fellows the last weekend in October at the Church of God Youth Convention and one of them asked me this question, "How long have you been in Youth ministry?" I answered right away, "six years." I wasn't off at all. I worked two years volunteering at a church youth group. I worked eight months in full time paid ministry, then four months in a different position helping out the new Youth Pastor. Add on to that my two years here in Bragg Creek and that makes six. That's a long time to be giving to God in ministry. Even though I was right I think I was also wrong. I think that somehow my answer doesn't give justice to what it means to be "in" youth ministry. Let me tell you why by sharing a bit about my spiritual journey.

When I was three I accepted Jesus as my saviour. When I was ten I was baptized. When I was fourteen I received my call into pastoral ministry and when I was 21 I accepted Jesus as my Lord and finally went into full time ministry training. Even though for me salvation and Lordship came at different times did my time "in" youth ministry simply start when I started training? I don't think so.

As a teen I was actively involved in my youth ministry for six years from 12-18. In that time period I did a ton of stuff that prepared me for what I am doing now, and I was instrumental in building God's kingdom in the lives of my friends and those of others around me. I carried my bible to school each day. I spoke about God on Wednesday's to my peers at youth group. I attended youth leadership classes at church. I was even responsible for inviting no less than 6 people to our meetings all of whom prayed the sinners' prayer.

"Thank you Cris for sharing that humble view of your teen years."

I didn't share so I would sound good. I wasn't holy, I was a terrible sinner. I was an average youth in those days and if you look up the stats and you'll see what I mean. I shared that because it gives a different picture of what youth ministry looks like.

Look around you here at the Bragg Creek Community Church and you'll see what I mean. I may be the youth pastor but I am by far not the only person doing youth ministry around here.

On your average Sunday morning three to five youth show up to set up chairs, tables, and sound system. Every week one specific youth sets up all our tech stuff, including the PowerPoint, and runs the screens too. We have one of our youth leading Thursday night guys' bible study and the Springbank school bible study which sees 30 plus youth come each week. We also have dozens of youth coming to Friday events, not because I called them, but because their friends told them how great youth is. We have seven people coming every other week to leadership classes and average four to our Sunday night youth prayer. We mustn't forget that we have two dedicated adults who attend every Friday event, every leader meeting, and come to every camp we attend. I should also mention the powerful prayer people who lay this ministry down in front of God every day.

I wonder if perhaps we don't often look at ministry through the eyes I had when that guy first asked me the question; eyes that limit ministry to full time paid or distinct volunteer status. When I answered "Six years," perhaps I spoke too soon. Perhaps I should have said, "Fourteen years." or "Twelve off, six on, two off, six on." That makes it seem like a lot longer time giving in ministry. I don't think that the answer to that mans question really had anything to do with the number of years I have been giving to God in ministry.

I think in hind sight the best answer to his question didn't have anything to do with time, but had tons to do with quality. I'd like to rephrase

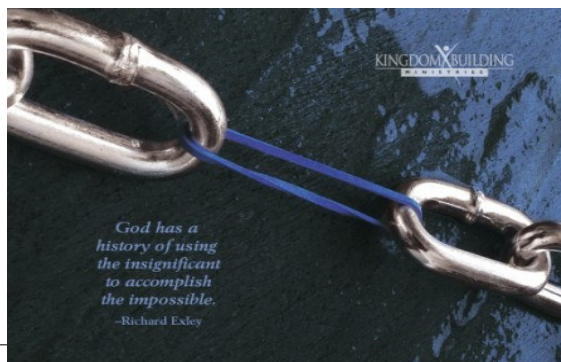
the question and instead of asking "How long" we should ask "How much." "How involved are you in ministry right now?" "How much are you adding to God's Kingdom?" "What is your place in service and what are you doing there?" The question should be a matter of current action, not a matter of past distinction.

I know a few youth right now in our congregation that put a lot of long standing Christian adults to shame. I know some youth right now that do hours of ministry each week. I know some youth right now that are already adding to the treasure God is storing for them in heaven. I know some youth who share the gospel openly everyday. I know some youth who live Christ like lives regardless of peer pressure. I know some youth who are diligent counsellors. I know some youth who keep actively accountable with each other. I know some youth who are equally as active in youth ministry as I am.

So I wonder. How much am I giving right now? So, I gave in the past. So, I did that once. So, I tried to minister there. So what! God doesn't care as much about what I did, or could have done as he does about what I am doing right now. God needs kingdom builders today, not yesterday, not four, ten, twelve years ago but now. I can't go back and add to what I did when I was a teen but I can add to God's kingdom by giving more today.

I am so glad that God sees fit, regardless of age to move us to ministry. So, if you see them moving furniture. If you see them praying in the corner. If you see them worshipping God simply remember this... It really doesn't have anything to do with "How long." rather, it has everything to do with "How much."

Pastor Cristin Block



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We're on the Web!
www.braggcreekchurch.ca



An opportunity to DELIGHT in God, to GROW in a lifestyle of worship and SERVE others with the sacrificial love that our Saviour showed us.

- *Walking in Expectation!*
- *Come and celebrate Jesus.*
- *Serving residents of Bragg Creek, Redwood Meadows and surrounding areas.*

We encourage new people to join our Church services, where you will find a warm welcome and a community of people who enjoy our worship together.

Our passion is to hunger and thirst for God, delighting in Him and Him alone. To experience Him in our lifestyle of worship and obedience. To search the Scriptures for God's leading in our lives and obey them. To serve others with the sacrificial love that our Saviour showed us, bringing peace, mercy and reconciliation to a hurting and broken world. We desire to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and enjoy Him forever.

New Paths off the Beaten Trail

A Great Opportunity Around the Corner

**"For the love of Christ compels us."
2 Corinthians 5:14**

Love can make you do crazy things, it can also cause you to focus and have compassion like you've never imagined. Our love for Jesus motivates us to fulfill what we're called and invited to do.

To help make followers of Jesus by bring others into a relationship with him, serving him by serving others and passing on this gift of grace we have been given.

But it's the love that causes us to give selflessly and sacrificially to give up things we may feel comfortable with and enjoy so others can experience this life. And it's because of that love that the council and elders would like to be a greater presence in Redwood Meadows.

Right now about 13% of our congregation is from Redwood and one of the ways we would like to make this congregation known and available is by starting a second service in the Redwood House.

We are currently putting together some of the details as to how all of this would work. One thing I want to be clear on is that we are not starting a second church in any way. Just like many other churches have an early and late service we will be doing the exact same thing only our morning service will be in a different location than the late service.

We realize our congregation % does not match the population, so rather than calling the Redwood community out to church we would like to bring the church to the community.

Will there be some sacrifice? Will there be more work? You bet! But will there be a great more efficient way to spread the love of Jesus available? And will more people then hear the good news and allow their lives to be transformed as they begin to follow Jesus? Most definitely.

So how can you begin to be compelled by love? First and most important pray! Pray for wisdom as we being to work out some of the details, pray that the Holy Spirit will go before us and begin to prepare

peoples hearts.

Secondly you can pray how you can be a part of this opportunity. The way I see it, every Sunday you will have an opportunity to enjoy worship not missing a thing and then turn around and serve everything from teaching Kingdom Kids to helping out in the nursery to greeting, setting up, tearing down, there are countless opportunities to be minister and be ministered too.

Wow! No more "what did I miss?" Or "I don't think there is a place for me to serve." This body will begin to look fuller and more complete because you are an active part of it. So be compelled by love won't you pray, the leadership council and elders would like to hear any wisdom and ideas you might have as to making everything work out efficiently and to God's glory. Please feel free to approach and speak with anyone of them.

Pastor Dave



I ASKED GOD

I asked for a flower...
He gave me a garden.

I asked for a tree...
He gave me a forest.

I asked for a river...
He gave me an ocean.

I asked for a friend...
He gave me "YOU."

Consecrated to Service (Challenge)

"It is God himself who made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives helping others." Eph 2:10 (LB)

Challenge Course

We believe ministry belongs to the members and that the lines of Clergy and Lay ministry should be blurred. God asks us to be faithful serving others through our whole lives and that means committing to generously give of our time, talents and treasure to bless others and glorify God.

Join with us Sunday mornings in January 9:30am as we discover some of the opportunities and talents God has given us. And how you can get involved in ministering to others. See Pastor Dave for details