



Banded Peak—Bragg Creek



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The Summit is a quarterly newsletter for the Bragg Creek & Redwood Meadows Community Church

Contributions made for the Nov./Dec. edition:

- Pastor Dave Zimmerman
- Pastor Cristin Block
- Roy Wuitschik
- Carol Scarratt
- Norm Leong

For more information, or to submit articles for Feb./Mar. please email:

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# The Summit

## Trail Notes

### Leviticus to Christmas

This could be a weird connection. What does clean and unclean food and purification after childbirth have to do with Tinsel and Christmas trees? Well... not much. Only that we are heading into the Christmas season and...well... we are studying Leviticus. However, there are a few more connections that we might seem to over look.

Leviticus is part of the reason for the need for the Messiah. Leviticus is about life, every aspect of it. It involves health, food, families, relationships, justice, sexuality, partying all of it. It was a compass to help the Hebrews live a life that was set apart in relation to God. A life that was deeper, fuller and healthier than any of the nations around. It involved being a nation that practiced justice and cared for the people and world around them, but guess what? They didn't grab hold of it. They forgot.

Again and again God warned them and called for them to repent and begin to live in the covenant that was cut. But the disobedience continued and so, they were disciplined...discipline that meant exile. Isaiah speaks about the exile but it also speaks about the hope of something new, restitution, renewal, rejoicing. The new covenant, the Messiah!

Leviticus is also a missionary voice pointing to holiness.

***7"Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. 8 Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy. Lev 20:7-8***

Leviticus is part of the advent of the Law. It was to bring about a different lifestyle for the Hebrews and the world. So why all the sacrifices and weird laws? Well, as we talked about previously, God spoke to a

young world in its language and culture and called them to something more. All that the world knew was sacrifices, all that the Hebrews knew were Egyptian practices and what they were going to come in contact with is Canaanite practices (not much better).

But God calls His people to holiness in the world that they live in. Christmas is a celebration of a new advent, one dealing with the final answer to that path to holiness regardless of culture. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law, the path to holiness, the path to completeness.

Finally, we see from Leviticus is God wanting his children to participate in feast and other activity that reminds them of God's goodness and covenant. We can learn from this. This year we should be encouraged to go beyond the commercial and focus on the eternal—the true meaning of Christmas. We need to bring Christ in and around the gift giving, the meals, and the celebrations. Let's be aware of Him in every aspect.

...Till next time,

**Pastor Dave**

## Streams of Thanksgiving

We would like to honor Alvena Taggart for the many years she has lead in Congregational care. From cards and letters to visits and food, she has been leading the team that keeps us together. She is passing the responsibilities on for now, but will remain helping out from time to time. We also thank the team that has been together serving on this for the past couple years. There are many times when a warm blanket and a full tummy is exactly what is needed and I think the whole church would agree that you guys have gone over and above in striving to that end.

Thank you and God Bless you Alvena and the congregational care team!!



**At the Peak**

- Please pray for everyone who is going through health concerns at this time of year.
- Pray for our outreach gatherings in Redwood Meadows .
- Pray for all the new infants and new parents throughout their new experiences.
- Pray for Council as they look at land options that will draw from our time and resources—look to God as we go through those discussions.
- Pray for new connections with his family in the Bragg Creek/Redwood Meadows area.



*Join us for our AGM Sunday, Combined Gathering sometime in Jan/Feb at 10am followed immediately by the Annual General Meeting. This is a chance to Discover how we are doing, where we are going and how we are reaching our mission.*

## Fellow Hikers: BCCC Research Project completed...an update from Carol Scarratt

### Building Shared Vision through Appreciative Inquiry: A Congregational Journey

From May to October 2006, our qualitative study used action research with an appreciative perspective to develop a shared vision of the strategy BCCC could take to fulfill God's mission.

Through Open Space, survey, and focus groups, the Pastoral team, Council, Elders, and Congregants shared their views for the future.

Study findings revealed that BCCC has an intimate, inclusive, and involved relationship with its congregants. Other key findings included strong support for youth involvement and more community outreach.

Recommendations include opening a church community drop-in centre, expanding learning and leadership opportunities, establishing a multi-generational church, and leading an evangelical outreach revival.

The 189 page report together with an executive summary will be submitted to Council on Tuesday, November 21st. Library copies of the report are available for loan.

*Carol Scarratt - wmtcab@telus.net  
BCCC Research Team Leader*



### From Council: Land Inquiry

The Council along with other members of the Congregation made inquiries as to the suitability of a 10 acre parcel of land which borders West Bragg Creek Road and Bracken Road.

The parcel is a hill, with a flat portion at the top, which may be suitable for a building site. There are concerns with respect to the North side which has been slumping towards West Bragg Creek Road.

Other issues which are being explored are zoning, sub-dividing a portion, financing, and potential infrastructure costs.

UPDATE as of 11/12/06: The site was found unsuitable for our needs.

Thanks  
Roy

## Around the Bend and Over the Hill

**November/December—** Don't miss our Christmas Activities

- Congregational Meeting, November. 19 (RWH)
- Family Christmas Dinner, Sat., November 25th (RWH)
- December 24 Morning service 10am (BCC)
- Christmas Eve Service 7pm, Bragg Creek Centre

**January**

- 26-28<sup>th</sup> Breakforth Canada in Edmonton

**February**

- 25th BCCC Annual General meeting
- Family Snow Day at the Boswells



## Youth...Drugs...Alcohol. What do you think?

"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



### YC2007

YC Alberta 2007  
May 25 - 27, 2007  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Watch for details  
<http://www.ycgeneration.com>

Link here for a copy of Health Reports: Alcohol, Drugs and Youth.

According to the Nation Longitudinal Survey from Statistics Canada the acceptance and use of drugs and alcohol in the youth culture of Canada is on a consistent rise. "No surprise" I say. "Of course there's an increase in drug and alcohol use and abuse among teens...."

These substances represent great intrigue, independence, and rebellion against authority. Youth are looking to exert their independence and make adult choices. Often they do so with their peers in their ears and a view of adulthood that's unrealistic. Lets look at some stats and then look at some proactive ways parents can help their kids make positive choices.

The stats among teens between 12 and 15 show that among youth from 1999 – 2002, "opposition to regularly smoking marijuana fell from 61% to 42%. At the same time, the percentage who strongly disapproved of using cocaine "once or twice" dropped from 55% to 41%." This is followed with an increase of alcohol abuse among teens while 17% of 12 year old said they had had at least one alcoholic beverage, by age 15 the figure was 66%.

Most parents I talk to say, "No way. That's not my kid. My kid is smarter than that." Truly most parents can't see their child involved in alcohol or drug related activities at all. The stats also show that youth who participate in alcohol consumption say that they would never tell their parents 82% of the time.

The average age when youth try their first drink is 12 and a half years old. The average age of youth who try marijuana or other mind altering drugs is 13 and a half. I want to note that these stats are for those who actually try these illegal substances. I also want to note that by age 15 we're talking about 60% of the youth population. This means that over half the youth out there at the age of 15



have been exposed to and consumed alcohol or illegal drugs.

The challenge for us is to understand why, what are the warning signs and how can we be proactive in helping our youth make positive decisions for their lives.

First the why. Among teens peer pressure is high. "Adolescents who reported that all or most of their friends had used alcohol had odds of having been intoxicated in the past year that were nearly 11 times as high as those with fewer friends who used alcohol. And the odds of using drugs were strikingly higher among youth who reported that all or most of their friends had used drugs." Friends who do drugs or use alcohol are a huge influence on those who don't. Youth have an innate need to belong and to fit in. Their desire for acceptance and belonging is huge. Never underestimate this pressure on their lives.

Another important factor was the acceptability and use of these substances at home. Where the parents or guardians of the youth used alcohol or drugs in the home (on a regular basis three or more times a week) the chance that the youth would also use was over twice that of youth who didn't have that influence at home. Where there was an acceptance in the home of these substances without regular use the chance of youth using increased to just under half again as much as for those who didn't have that influence in their home. What does this mean. It means that where parents use, youth use. What you use and do at home, what you accept as normal becomes normal for your teen. They will do what you do and do it younger than you.

Other factors include; family structure with single parent or guardian families having youth more likely to drink or use drugs, or where there is a hostile parenting environment, stressors in the life of a youth like pressure to achieve at school, moving, or loss of a loved one.

How can we help youth make positive decisions about drinking and drug abuse? First, talk to them about it. Share the stats, talk about their friend. Let your child know that you understand the pressure they are under. Let them know that what decision you would like them to make and why. Have these talks with your kids while they are young before they are likely to act, around 10 or 11.

Second, talk to their friends and their friends parents. The more you know about what is acceptable in other families the better you can prepare your youth. When you find out that alcohol is used in a home or acceptable to a youth then let your youth know what to expect when he/she is there and the kind of behaviour you expect from them. Don't ban their friends or people's homes, but be aware. G.I. Joe says, "Knowing is half the battle."

Thirdly, be open and honest about your use of and history with these substances. If you can share life experience and teach about what these things have been and done for you then you can teach your teen the proper place of these substances. Whether your experience is negative or positive when your youth hears about your drunk driving offense, or that wedding celebration it gives you a chance to say, "Only one drink, in moderation, on special occasions." or "Don't touch the stuff it'll ruin your life, look what it did to me."

Whatever your views whatever your history and whatever you know the very best thing you can do for your youth is open up your life, talk to them, and be honest. I am regularly surprised by what youth keep to themselves, by what parents don't know, and by the way youth can open themselves up, live transparent lives, and make positive choices.

If you have questions would like to know more, or would like to contact me please e-mail me at:

[crisblock@hotmail.com](mailto:crisblock@hotmail.com)

**Pastor Cristin Block**

**BRAGG CREEK &  
REDWOOD MEADOWS**

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We're on the Web!

<http://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 - Other Ministries**

**SEED Shine-a-Thon 2006**  
THE SEED  
88.9 Shine FM

88.9 Shine FM will be broadcasting live from the Mustard Seed with SEED staff and volunteers accepting donations and pledges from people who **DIAL IN, DRIVE THROUGH OR DROP BY.**

**GOAL: \$250,000**

Date: December 07, 2006 6 am - 8 pm  
Join us for a Coin Challenge, Hockey Tournament and other exciting events.

Where: Mustard Seed Creative Centre  
106 11th Ave SW, Calgary AB  
**403-693-SEED (7333)**

Shine 88.9 FM LEGACY LITURGICAL THE SEED



**Singing for Supper**  
**With Tom Jackson**  
Wednesday, December 20, 2006 Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Westside King's Church, 3939 - 69 Street SW  
Doors open at 6:00 pm

Tickets: \$20 - On Sale Nov. 1  
Available at Ticketmaster  
777-0000 or [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)  
Contact: Monica at 253-2059  
Proceeds: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank

**Food Donations Welcome**  
**Most Needed Foods:**

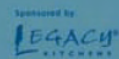
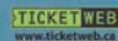
- Pasta products & Rice
- Canned meats and fish
- Dry and canned soups & stews
- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Flour
- Breakfast cereal
- Peanut butter
- Canned/Powdered milk
- Fruit Juices
- Pasta Sauce
- Beans & Legumes
- Infant formula & Baby Food

*music*

for a winter evening  
Monday, December 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church, 1009 15th Avenue S.W. Calgary

Tickets available from any choir member, or 403-770-6078,  
The Seed at 269-1319, and online at Ticketweb or 1-800-222-6608



TICKETS - ALL PROCEEDS TO THE MUSTARD SEED  
\$20 ADULTS  
\$10 STUDENTS, CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

**A study of Leviticus - upcoming messages from Pastor Dave:**

A need for Peace –Ch 3  
A need to Confess –Ch 4  
A need to Restore –Ch 5 & 6  
A need for a Priest – Ch 8  
Present Glory

Discuss Leviticus with Pastor Dave's Blog:

<http://www.emergingtrax.blogspot.com/>