

{CMMNPLC}

COMMONPLACE | FALL 2005

INDEX

FROM THE EDITOR	2
FROM THE ELDERS	2
READY... SET... GO!	3
COOLNESS	4
HEARTS AND HANDS IN ETHIOPIA	5
ENGAGEMENT	6
PEOPLE'S PLACE	8
No Event Horizon...with Jesus	8
My Birthday T-shirt	8
Untitled	9
Are you a Christian?	10
A Challenge	11
NOTICES	12
THE REGULARS	13
APRES PLACE	13
PASTORS' PLACE	14
SCHEDULE	14
DAILIES	15

FROM THE EDITOR

*"And the tears come streaming
down your face
When you lose something you can't
replace" (Coldplay)*

As I write this we are a few hours away from our AGM, where we commit to walking together in a new direction of 'loving God and loving others.' You will find a few key AGM reports within, starting with Gerry's (below), and ending with Randy's on the Place.

The challenge to us is how do we

engage a hurting world - in our homes, city, nation and world. These past few months have been full of brokenness, and tears have been streaming. What is Jesus already doing there? And how can we, as individuals and as a body, join in? And are we part of the problem, or the solution?

Simon

*"Tears streaming down your face
I promise you I will learn from my
mistakes"*

FROM THE ELDERS

Having been in "transition" for this past year, there have been many areas of ministry that have seen changes in format, style and leadership structure. The elders are very encouraged with the growth and health in these areas of change. To borrow a phrase from one of our prayer intercessors, "we have moved from transition to transformation". I would agree with that statement. We have seen a transformation from caution and confusion in our congregation, to commitment in the way that Lambrick desires to become more team oriented.

With a fresh sensitivity towards being in community, we are seeing more opportunities to be engaged with the activities of the church to create an environment that would transform a "spectator" into being a "participant".

Most exciting of all was the transformation seen in a group of 5 people that the elders sent to Ethiopia to investigate what kind of partnership we could have with Canadian Food for the Hungry International and a village district called Belo. In this coming year we will be awaiting the ideas and strategies from the Hearts and Hands group, as well as from the Engagement Design team to look at and participate in global and local projects that will transform people's lives towards God's Kingdom.

Yet, even with these positive changes, we have not arrived, folks. The elders are very aware of the pressures and restrictions that come with the financial shortfalls of this past year. The pastoral and support staffs of Lambrick are doing an amazing job of thinking outside of the box to be as creative and effective as possible with the resources they have been given. But the elders are also prayerfully convinced that God will provide for the needs and desires that we have as a church to make an eternal impact on those in our church, in our community and in our world. God uses His own power, His Holy Spirit and His people (that means YOU!) to accomplish His will. For some of you, it may mean a total rethink of what you have, what you own, what you earn and what you do with all of it. To quote Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Please pray along with the elders that all of us would listen to and obey the Spirit's leading of where and how each of us are to engage through Lambrick this year.

Gerry Brouwer

READY... SET... GO!



We are starting new learning series at 'The Place'. We are paying attention to "The Good News According to Mark". And we will be attending to this text as the centre of our communal devotion for the next seven months, concluding with an Easter celebration. That might seem like a long time. People may get tired of a seven-month plod like that. People might actually get bored of it before the end. But, we are going to commit to engage in the Spiritual discipline of faithfully plodding this course. In his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, Eugene Peterson challenges us to consider whether we will be true "pilgrims" or merely "tourists" on this plodding journey of long obedience. Peterson borrowed the title for his book from Friedrich Nietzsche, who wrote, "The essential thing 'in Heaven and Earth' is...that there should be a long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living." At 'The Place', we want to encourage us all to be authentic "pilgrims". One

way that we will be that is by paying careful attention to God's Word on a daily basis. We will be listening to it together on Sunday nights. We will also be reading and praying through it daily. We have provided a daily reading program for our whole congregation (see "daily readings" at back of cP?) with small passages of Mark for each day and psalm readings for mornings and evenings. We are encouraging people to gather in groups and listen to it together and discuss it. We want to be engaged in the ancient disciplines of reading it, studying it, memorizing it, meditating on it, praying through it, believing it and putting it into practice.

Why the Gospel of Mark? The simple answer is, we want to get know Jesus better. From the second Century writings of Eusebius who quoted from earlier writing now lost to us, we learn that Mark was understood to be the record of the Apostle Peter's story of his first hand experiences with Jesus Christ as recorded by John Mark who was also an eye-witness to many of these events. These are the stories of Peter who knew Jesus, recorded by

Mark who knew Jesus, written so that we might know Him too. They recorded these things so that we might know Him and believe. Mark calls his record "The Gospel (good news) about Jesus Christ the Son of God." He wrote it so that we might know this one Jesus and that we might understand the "good news" about Him. We should ask at every section, What's the good news here? In his biography of Jesus, John writes, "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30, 31 NIV). We should also ask, "Of all the things he could have recorded, why did Mark write this bit? We want to understand and experience this belief and this life in His name. So, we're going to listen to Mark's message, and see how we might grow and be changed.

Mark begins his story with an intro. You could summarize his intro with the word Prepare! You've seen billboards that announce "It's coming!" You've

seen TV ads: “Get ready! Coming, this fall, the biggest, the best, the boldest season of T.V. ever! Get ready! It’s what you’ve been waiting for, T.V. like you’ve never seen it” But, there’s nothing you actually DO to “prepare”. You don’t run around getting yourself ready for TV. You don’t have to clean your house or tidy your clothes to get ready for T.V. You just have to BE ready. The T.V. advertising executives simply want you to be in the right place at the right time to get in on it. That’s like Mark’s intro. With his quotes of expectations from the Old Testament and his introduction of John the Baptist, Mark shouts “GET READY! Here He comes! This is the expected fulfillment of what God promised He would do! Here comes good news! BE READY!!

John the Baptist shouts, “REPENT!” Repent literally means to “turn your mind”. Change your mind! Think again. Forget what you thought you knew about God. Forget the little boxes we have put God in. For about thirty-three years God was here in a unique way. People actually saw him and touched and heard him. The eye-witnesses tell us that he was indeed fully the man who was God and fully the God who was man. Mark got to know Him. Peter got to know Him. John the Baptist got to know Him. And they wanted us to meet Him too. They want us to see that He has come into our world, that He is reconciling all things to Himself, that He has experienced everything that we would face in this world, every danger and temptation. Are you ready to get to know God better? Are you in the right place at the right time to meet Him and believe Him and have life in His name in a fresh new way? Then REPENT! Think again. GET READY! Get ready to have your mind changed. Get ready to have your life changed. Mark is saying, “Forget what you thought you knew about God. Get ready to meet God in a whole new way. Be in the right place at the right time. Be in church. Be in the Scriptures daily. Be together. Be in prayer. Be in the world. Because God is revealing Himself to us and He is going to change us. Our picture of God is going to change and we are going to be changed. Do you think God is boring? Do you think this year’s going to be like

any other? Do you think church is going to be business as usual? Don’t let it be. THINK AGAIN! I’ve got some good news! Nothing is going to be business as usual – because God is HERE. And God is not like what we usually think he is. Do you think He’s distant? Do you think He doesn’t care about you? Do you think He doesn’t understand? Do you think He’s not interested? Do you think He can’t relate to what you’re facing? Think again! This year is going to be different. We are going to get to know Him better. Get ready! Get in the right place at the right time. He’s going to make highways in our lives this year. It starts right now. It will be a long obedience in the same direction. And, it will take our whole lives to complete.

James Prette (“teach” - ed.)



COOLNESS

“Coolness might help in your negotiation with people through the world, maybe, but it is impossible to meet God with sunglasses on. It is impossible to meet God without abandon, without exposing yourself, being raw. That’s the connection with great music and great art, and that is why it’s uncomfortable, that is why cool is the enemy of it...”

Bono from Bono: In Conversation with Michka Assayas

Wow. That’s a kicker. “Coolness” is something that comes up a lot for me as I work with small groups and talk to many in our family. The Place has cliques. It isn’t always welcoming. And it ain’t always an easy fit. And “coolness” seems to be the wolf in sheep’s clothing behind many of these sad circumstances; if I had a penny for every time someone has asked me how to cross the cool/uncool threshold, I’d be rich.

“So what are we gonna do about it?” I’m often asked.

I’ve yet to find a satisfactory answer. I’ve never been in a crowd this big and felt the unity and equality that I know God has granted us. I’ve had people avoid eye contact with me, and I know

I’ve turned around when I’ve seen certain people approaching me. We’ve got a lot of work to do if we’re to make the Place the welcoming community God wants us to become. I’ve got a lot of work to do myself.

We need to realize that as we take our sunglasses off it will be uncomfortable. It won’t come easy. And that’ll be okay. It will be worth it. Chances are our discomfort will make the room more comfortable for someone else. As we put ourselves out there on a more regular basis our edges will wear down and our discomfort will wane. And before long we will realize anew that the Place does not revolve around us and our comfort, but around the worship, glory and example of the great Servant Himself...

James K

HEARTS AND HANDS IN ETHIOPIA



// "Hearts & Hands" is short for "Hearts and Hands in Africa" and is the name Lambrick Park Church uses to mean our long term involvement with Canadian Food for the Hungry International (CFHI) in a major redevelopment project of a village called Belo, in Ethiopia.

Previous publications outline the role with CFHI, the goals of the project and the historical formation of "Hearts & Hands." This report will summarize the activities of Hearts & Hands (H&H) in the last year (2004-05).

During October and November of 2004 there were ongoing discussions with CFHI about a proposed fact-finding trip to Belo, Ethiopia and discussions were continuing regarding who would actually go on the trip. By late December the team was selected to include Simon Goff, Amy Konowalyk, Laura Gandy, Rosemary and Geoff Gaunt. Part of the discussions with CFHI was that it would be David Collins, president of CFHI who would accompany the team and essentially lead the fact-finding trip. This was felt to be a tremendous asset for Lambrick Park Church as David Collins is well known in our community, having been involved with us in various ways over the last 8 years.

So, in January 2005 the team members started meeting together to discuss necessary preparations including expectations, clothing, health issues and travel plans. Simon Goff handled the details. We met to pray and to prepare. We had a meeting with both Dorothy Tolsma and Daryl Thomson who had previous contact with CFHI and Ethiopia. We didn't really get to know each other until after the trip. Fundraising all occurred in December and January - miraculously it all came together very quickly (\$15K).

We flew from Victoria to Calgary on January 31, 2005 where we met two other people who were going with us - Gil Molinas - an advocate for CFHI and Tim Hardy who was going

to record the trip and create a video for us.

We then flew from Calgary to Frankfurt Germany and after a short layover there we flew on to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We arrived in Addis Ababa in the very early hours of the morning local time after traveling for about 25 hours. Early the next morning we met David Collins and we spent most of the day getting oriented and prepared for our trip out to Belo.

Most of the actual travel part of the trip and the experiences we had in Belo are documented in the DVD that has been shown at LPC and that is available on the web site or from any of the members of the H&H team.

Upon our return we started regular weekly meetings. We discussed what we had experienced and seen, and started developing a plan for communication with the congregation and leadership at LPC. Our goal was to understand the significance of what CFHI was suggesting LPC get involved in.

On April 3, 2005 the H&H team made an initial presentation to the congregation and recommended that LPC commit to partnership with CFHI in support of the Belo redevelopment project. A month later we started showing slideshows. Finally, in September 2005, the movie was shown to the congregations.

One of the Ethiopian Food for the Hungry staff, Mustafa, said, "I don't see my country as a problem, I see this as an opportunity." We have thought about this statement a lot and we

have come to agree with him - Belo, Ethiopia and the project administered by CFHI is a huge opportunity for LPC to be involved in a significant development project. Part of this is financial assistance; another part is encouragement and relationship with Christians in another part of the world.

Why Belo, Ethiopia? Why not a South American village or Asian village? The selection of Belo has come about primarily at the recommendation of David Collins and CFHI whom LPC has been developing significant relationships with for many years. They know the needs and recommended this Ethiopian community development project to us.

Does Belo need us?? Yes, of course. The better question is, "Do we need Belo?" The H&H team believes that LPC needs to be involved with Belo so that we can learn from them things that God is teaching them in the circumstances He has placed them in. We need to learn to love God the way they love Him, and we need the spiritual exercise of giving and caring for the need of the poor.

In fact, God is already transforming Lambrick through our service in Belo: it has broadened our understanding of the fullness of the gospel; it has challenged our views of unity; it has encouraged us to get involved in the city; and it has played a large part in the movement from Mission Council to Engagement (i.e. a "we do missions" mentality to "we are missions".)

H&H has redefined itself over the summer and is looking forward to years of striving towards its objectives: communication, unity, partnership, relationship and stewardship. It is looking outwards into our community, and into the ways God will continue to transform us.

Geoff G





FROM MISSIONS COUNCIL TO ENGAGEMENT

As the Missions Council wrapped up its mandate late spring / early summer 2005 a working group called the “Engagement Design Team” or EDT was formed to facilitate our growing sense of mission in an attempt to capture the potential in Lambrick Church in terms of becoming a missional faith community. The missions council, like our Finance Team, and our Personnel/HR function, is a sub-committee of the board of elders. It was after much dialogue and prayer that this move was made. We believe that Lambrick will reap the benefits and rewards of such a difficult decision in the weeks, months and the years to come. The elders want to thank the recent team who served on our missions council: Laura Gandy as acting chair, Pearl & Bob Williams, Pat & Don Cottrell, Wendy & Barry Lidstone, Susan & Mike Lawrance, Linda Peterson, Chin-Aik Tan and Dalila Reimer.

We were very fortunate to be able to build the new engagement design team from an intentional representation of Lambrick: both Place and Sunday AM, from three generations of former missions councils, both people new to LPC and those around a long time. The team is made up of Margot Spence (missions council chair mid-90’s and current Place vision team member), Deborah Morris (missions council member early 2000’s), Mike Lawrance (missions council 2002-2005), Jamie Spray (Place vision team member and short term missionary), Ross Porter (consultant, Sunday AM member, Smorgasbord facilitator), and from the staff side, Simon Goff (Place developer, Hearts & Hands team member) and Don Crawford (Lambrick/thePlace executive pastor).

The mandate the elders gave this team in Spring was twofold:

i) develop a conceptual model for LPC that embraces engagement and mission

ii) develop a working model to incorporate and implement the conceptual model.

The elders and design team agreed upon deadlines, as it was important that key aspects of the mission council not fall through the cracks. Thanks to mission council members who graciously carried responsibilities through the summer for us. The goal for having a conceptual model was September, and we accomplished that. The goal for a working or functional model is November 2005 ... the EDT has met 3 times towards that deadline. We understood early on that a well thought through conceptual model would make the practical working model much easier to figure out, put together, and recruit people to.

The EDT worked all summer ... meeting every other week on nice summer evenings ... to develop a conceptual framework of engagement at LPC. We heard a taste of that in September as James introduced us to engagement as one of the core values and/or navigational tools that are directing and focusing Lambrick Church. In a nutshell, the definition of engagement is ... living out our identity in Christ ... which, for LPC, means: our ethos/orientation, our equipping/preparation, our mobilizing/organization, our expression/service, our embedding/integration, an intentional re-investing of what we have learned/experienced back into our missional ethos.

The elders and pastoral team have been ‘in-the-loop’ through this process, and are strongly in support of where this is taking us. We believe this different

“lens” for looking at mission is where God is leading us a faith community. We believe it is broader and more ambitious for the Kingdom, and that it has the potential to be corrective to some of the frustrations that missions councils experienced over the last several years. We believe that ‘Hearts & Hands’ in Belo, Ethiopia is a first test case of how Lambrick would ‘engage’ globally. As will be Mission:Mexico as it develops and matures. And as will any number of local grassroots efforts become as we wrestle with what it looks like for each of us to become ‘messengers and ministers of God’s reconciliation’ in our world.

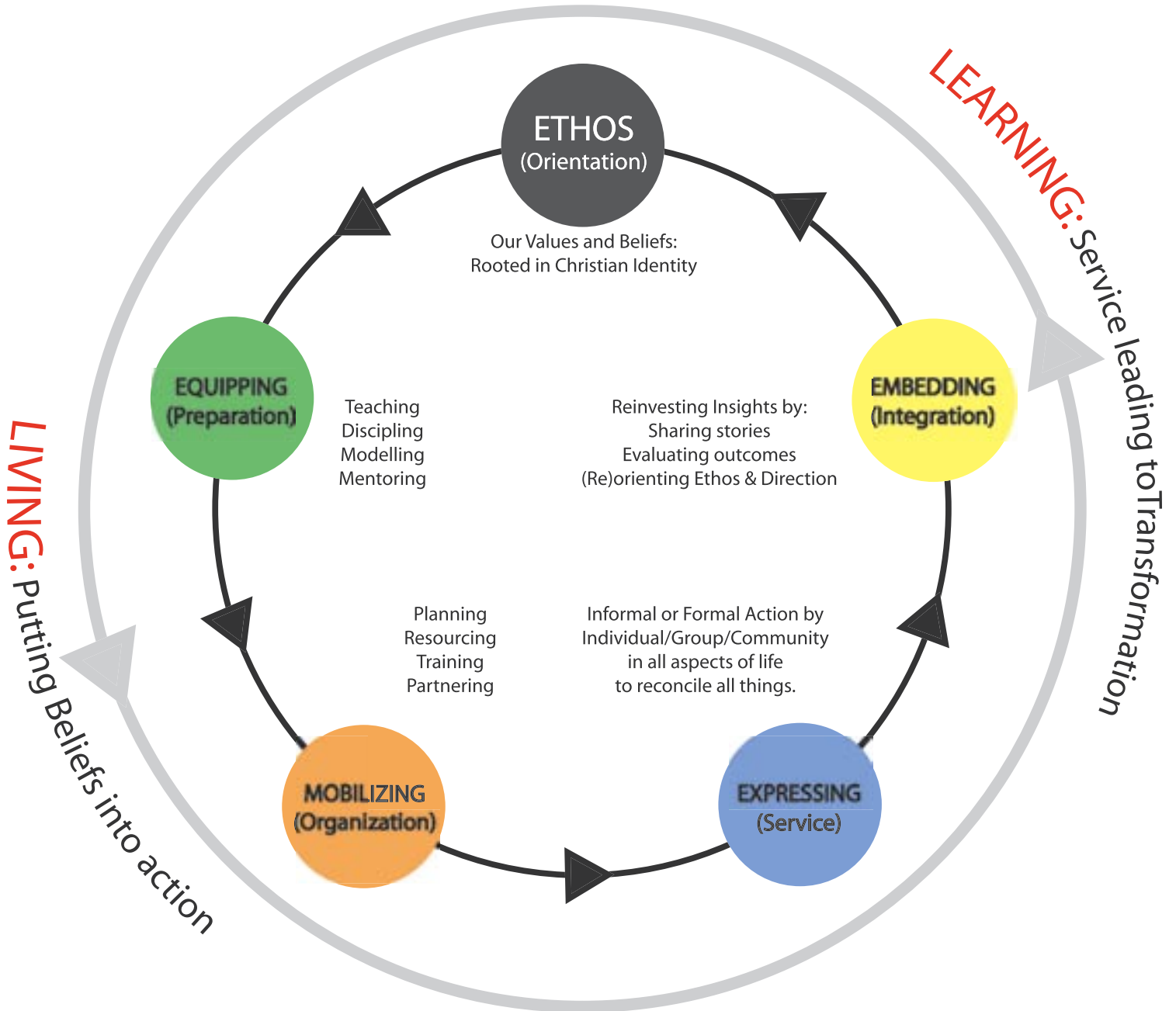
Maybe a couple of illustrations/examples would be helpful as you process this? First, we have been asked a few times ... “what does this mean to the missionaries we currently support financially?” The answer, simplistically, is “nothing right away” as the missions council had made long term commitments to 8 missionary family units, and 6 organizations. We intend to honour those commitments. At the same time, as the term of commitment comes up for review we expect to assess any re-commitments against an engagement ‘grid’ that will developed in the working model. Long term, we expect to develop missional partnerships with individuals and ministries that are aligned with us theologically, our values, and the engagement model. This could be the Mustard Seed, A Rocha, SaLTS, IVCF and Young Life locally, and an exciting ‘team’ regionally, nationally and globally ... and will more than likely reflect most of our existing commitments. The potential will lie in having a way to assess new possible partners, whether financial, or philosophical, prayer support and/or physical.

Don C

ENGAGEMENT

living out our identity in Christ

The informal, formal, individual and/ or collective expressing of our Christian identity in our homes, communities, workplaces, nation and world, as we serve with Christ as ministers and messengers of the reconciliation of all things: Our relationship with God, with others, with ourselves and with creation.



THOUGHTS AND PERCEPTIONS: ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

Has someone asked you this question lately? How would you answer it? "yes", "no", "I'm not sure". I've been thinking about this recently and I'm surprised at how I would answer it. The word 'Christian' has been interpreted as meaning 'little Christ', which if you think about it, is a lofty aspiration. In the first century this description was coined by secular authorities who saw this new sect of the Jews as a growing problem. These 'little Christs' had this reputation as being political troublemakers, turning the world upside down, not towing the 'party line', agitating the religious. And yet loving life and their enemies, embracing sinners, helping the poor, offering forgiveness, ready to die. They were an enigma to the pervading cultures of that day but they attracted all kinds of seeking people – read the book of Acts.

How do you think our pervading culture perceives us? Some have said that we are becoming a more 'post' christian (I'm using a small 'c' intentionally) society here in Victoria. When Victorians hear the word 'christian' what do you think comes to their mind? Do they look on us as a paradoxical, counter cultural people who emanate goodness and yet challenge the status quo? Or do they perceive us with contempt, branded as fundamentalists, closed and out of touch, defined and very predictable – bad news. Have you thought about how your non-christian friends, work mates, fellow students, family, strangers etc perceive you? Should we even be

concerned about that? I am, to the point that I almost want to discard this description 'christian' that has now become more of a negative 'label' to our society.

I'm assuming that some of you are a little nervous about what I just wrote. Then again maybe some of you are saying, "yeah, lets do it". The spectrum of christian expression down through history to present day is so varied, some we may admire, some we may loathe. I want to pose some questions that I don't necessarily have the answers to, that may be somewhat troubling, and share some ideas - all to stimulate thought.

When the Government was struggling with the issue of same sex marriage, why didn't they come to the church for advice? Do you think a gay or transsexual person would feel safe with you?

How do we love pedophiles? Did you know that the Idea of making Jesus your 'personal' lord and savior is only about 100 years old? And only gained prominence in the last 30 years or so? I haven't checked this myself but 2 different scripture scholars searched the 4 gospels and discovered that Jesus was asked 183 questions and He only answered 3 directly - what does that mean for us? Saint Francis of Assisi said "Preach the gospel at all times, and from time to time say a few words" (paraphrased), Huh !? Is it more important to be doctrinally right or authentically good? Do you see that as one and the same? Remember, the Pharisee's prided themselves on doctrinal correctness and Jesus was angry and quite irreverent with them... I could go on and on. Did you find yourself answering these questions easily... no? Either way, consider this:

Better to ask good questions than to have all the answers, If you have all the answers its time to ask better questions.

Some of my problems with the usage of the word 'christian' is that it seems to have lost its sense of journey and smacks of elitism: People more interested in getting into heaven than bringing heaven into this world. I think of myself more as a follower or 'explorer' of Christ, I haven't stopped seeking, searching. I'm a disciple with lots of questions and needing lots of correction and re-evaluation, even with the beliefs that I hold 'sacred'. I want to be transformative not conformative, I don't like the 'them' and 'us' connotation it has now - threatening people with hell and exclusion like the Pharisee's did. But I want to serve seekers who are attracted to the goodness of Christ and hope that I don't get in the way of their pursuit – its an attitudinal thing. The word Christian has been abused down through the ages and I suppose if someone asked me " are you a Christian?" I would eventually say yes. But I think my first responses might be " what do you mean by Christian?" or "when you say Christian what comes to your mind?" or maybe I'd say " I'm becoming a 'C'-hristian" and continue the conversation from there. There's more I could say but I think I'll pause. Have your thoughts and perceptions been blurred in an uncomfortable way? If so, take heart, I feel that way too, but I think that's a good place to be in, it keeps me from arrogance and encourages humility.

Paul T

UNTITLED

*Back out of all this now too much for us,
Back in a time made simple by the loss*

*Of detail, burned, dissolved, and
broken off
Like a graveyard of marble sculpture
in the weather,
There is a house that is no more a
house
Upon a farm that is no more a
farm
And in a town that is no more a
town.*

Robert Frost

Out of sight out of mind was a king-size cliché from the king of kitsch. It was the one my father use to offer me. I think he was trying to communicate, but I may be speculating in that regard. I'd like to say, aw he was just kidding and that's not really how he felt, or he just had a hard time showing his true feelings and so on. I call my

father the king of kitsch because he was the art director for the west Edmonton mall. A kind of mausoleum of campy decor - a homage to the glitzy side of pulp culture. My father died September 11th of lymphoma (cancer).

I feel like something should be said. I wish I had a beautiful poetic voice like my friend Fanny to say something evocative. I'd like to dig around in my psyche and come up with a kernel of truth to sum up the depth of love my father and I shared, you know out of respect for the dead.

Truth is we were estranged. My relationship with him was punctuated not with birthdays, anniversaries, weddings or graduations but with offences. I hadn't spoken with the old man for seven years and that time it was his wife who offended me. She had



reprimanded me in classic Germanic style for forgetting my father's birthday. Well, heck i didn't even know when his birthday was, which of course reminded me at the time that he always forgot mine. So then weary with legs like cement I suited up and drug myself over to the roller-coaster ride of resentment. The rush was to feel my stomach in my shoes and time passing at dizzying velocity. That roller-coaster ride is what really blew my hair back.

MY BIRTHDAY T-SHIRT

It was almost my birthday, and my giddy anticipation grew. I could not wait to open my present from my friend Kristy. She had gone to Australia a few days ago and left me with a package swearing me to patience until the morn of my big day. Hand-coloured and in scripted, made with love; this one will be your favorite, Kristy. I thought about it often, it was a mystery; how could she know if it would be my favorite?

Coming to the conclusion that waiting to my birthday was not really that big of a deal and besides Kristy would never find out I broke my promise to wait. I opened the present, and she was right, I loved it. Kristy had made me a t-shirt with a picture of my face, in what appears to be my impersonation of The Rock, and written on the back - you better kiss me it's my birthday.

It was so me, (literally), that I couldn't help but wear it that day. And exactly what I thought would happen, did. I was the centre of attention, it 'rocked (sorry, I couldn't help that pun)! Everyone said happy birthday to me, and I even got a few kisses. Although I got tired of explaining it wasn't actually my birthday and even more tired of making excuses as to why I wore it early; I found myself sporting it everyday until my actual birthday.

And finally when my birthday was really here I wore that t-shirt with pride, and accuracy; it was so gratifying to wear the shirt on my actual big day. No excuses - it was my day, my gift, my conscience was free. Kristy was right I should have waited until my birthday to open the gift. Not that I wasn't thankful before, and not that the gift wasn't totally me. But that it just didn't make as much sense on those days as it did the day it was carefully crafted for.

Alright, you guys caught me. Truthfully this isn't just a t-shirt story this is a parallel between us and God and one of the specialist gifts he has given us, the gift of sex. God created sex with the intention of blessing a marriage. Yet many, many people have opened the gift before the day it was made for. That doesn't mean it isn't still special, or doesn't mean anything to you; in truth those are very real feelings most people experience. However those feelings are not all God intended you to have. God only wants the best for his children, and so he has given us a timing that compliments his best, and that timing is marriage.

I understand how hard it is to be given such a big gift and told it is best for you to wait, look at how I acted with the t-shirt. But now I know that when Gods says; "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11), now I know that he means it!

Rebecca B

Death is the ultimate last word freak, the culmination of all adjectives the super nova of human expression. With death there are no more snappy retorts no more banter no more 'I told you so's. The luxury of tomorrows is all gone and there you are still trying to get the punctuation right from the last misunderstanding. The wind is knocked out of you, jaws agape, no breath is there. The argument is over, the gavel has come down, and justice is served. I'd always blamed my stepmother for the abyss that had grown between my father and I. It was not a vehement black hole it was the kind formed out of indifference, soft grey and not black but freezing cold just the same. "Out of sight out of mind", was my father's battle cry and it was plain enough for me to see that those words would not be the bridge between our two countries. And now the hole has gone black with death. The stepmother showing her true colours as people do in the aftermath of a passing.

Spite was the ride my stepmother preferred. That ride doesn't stand the hair up on the back of your neck the way the coaster does, spite moves over you like an easy breeze as the wheel takes you around persistently and tediously, no sir there's no going anywhere on that wheel. It's round and round we go. my stepmother wouldn't call me to tell me he was sick or to tell me after all that he was dying. She didn't tell me about the funeral and wouldn't put my name in the obituary.

When finally word of the death made its last stop at my door, the reaper was easily fed up with his stupid chore of the great and final robbery. And the final deposit of shame. After all the grim reaper is not a charmer but possesses some standards at least, preferring to blow the icy breath of death over the loved one while the bereaved watches

in wonder as life exits stage right. But no the reaper was forced to make this cheap announcement the off-handed drop you a line, oh by the way kind of death news...there would be no drama no vigil no last words. Just the hole, the great yawning void and after the reaper has swept by, the abyss is now deep and dark no more pearlescent gray of the morning like in a Monet painting, that pretty shade of gray my father and I (we two artists) kept between ourselves. The colour of our indifference chilly as it was, passed for a solace. In that disjointed grey field lived the dull promises of a lifetime of rehearsals, a cool quiet place to make huge the infractions between us. Time stood still in the land of no consequences, that deprivation countered by the luxury of keeping a nose out of joint for decades. I'd like to say well, I feel... something, but, robbed of all those trappings of death, the funeral, the wake, the flowers, comforting words the holding of a hand, instead I feel the beak of a scavenger helping itself. It's just the prattling of the wicked stepmother obliged to deliver her poison packed in a frozen apple. Cold comfort. Not all is lost, the wasteland has permafrost. And after speaking with the widow on the phone she with her 'I told you so's, and 'well all you have is yourself to blame',

I couldn't help but think, is this the enemy? The grieving widow remarking how she has my father's ashes sitting on her dresser in their bedroom. I think the enemy robs us of our feelings and acts in collusion to rob our dignity. Once

again this scapegoat hears the sighing of the wind in the desert and thinks about going there and toys with the thought, at least it's warm there. I've learned this much after all, it's God that sends us out to the desert. I thank God for His mercy and pray that mine hasn't taken the roller coaster or the Ferris wheel. I

feel blessed despite this loss. Maybe I'll design a puppet show. No more sand storms for now. And to my father bonne nuit. Rest in peace, Ronald Patrick Patrice Soullier.

Rhonda S

*Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling
out,
And to whom I was like to give
offence.
Something there is that doesn't love
a wall,
That wants it down*

Robert Frost

NO EVENT HORIZON...WITH JESUS

Event Horizon: n. 1. The outer boundary of a black hole, inside which the gravitational force is strong enough to prevent matter or radiation, including light from escaping. 2. The point of no return.

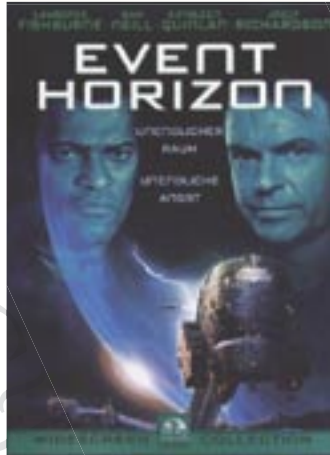
"No one makes a greater mistake than the one who does nothing, because he could only do a little." Edmund Burke.

Ever wondered what's so appealing about Christianity? Or why when you're falling in your dreams, you almost always wake up with a start before crashing down?

Maybe you saw the creepster movie "Event Horizon" in the late 90s. A thriller/sci-fi exploring human space travel and the rescue of a lost ship by the same name. A handful of men and women race to the outer edge of the solar system in response to the distress call of a ship lost years earlier (officially exploded).

The movie takes its name from the scientific phenomena expounded on most famously by Stephen Hawking in "A Brief History of Time," where when falling into a black hole, there is a point after which nothing escapes...no light,

no radio signals, no calls to home to say, "I love you," or, "I'm sorry." Never mind you actually escaping in your ship, that point is long since past. God help you.



The gritty crew of 8, led by Captain Miller (Laurence Fishburne) is balanced by the playful rescue-tech Cooper, the smart and good looking female co-pilot Lt. Stark and the intense and detached scientist who designed the lost ship, Dr. William Weir (Sam Neil).

The familiar, Frankenstein-esque theme of the macabre spectacle revolves around the doctor's invention of a drive system for the Event Horizon that relies on a dimension-shifting artificial black hole to warp spacetime and produce faster-than-light travel.

But wherever the ship's been, it's brought back only corpses, a freaky ship's log, a life of its own and a piece of hell with it that sucks the characters in as they begin to go mad and turn on each other and themselves.

As if someone slipped something in

their drinks on Halloween, they find they're among living hallucinations of the most painful moments in their lives that none wants to accept. A wife's suicide, a lost crewmate, a lost son...

As they accelerate toward their combined and individual fates, each must face their demons on their own and the strong possibility of falling into a personal black hole

of despair and insanity.

The chilling lesson? Trust and pride in technological inventions, personal accomplishments, family or friends is not enough. But the lesson goes deeper...

Though not all of them survive physically, those who avoid the hell brought back by the doctor's ship are the ones least focused on themselves and most focused on helping others. The ones who don't despair at their own loss and give in. The ones who know it's never too late to make a difference, even if they can only do a little.

Jesus offers the best hope against the threat of a personal black hole that's never that far from any of us.

If Jesus held an event horizon over our heads, would Paul have been converted on the road to Damascus, after the terrifying things he'd done? Would the prostitute who cried and washed His feet have been forgiven? Would the bandit crucified next to Him have been saved at the last minute, just by asking?

Since writing his renowned book, Stephen Hawking has tried to prove that some things... nano-super-fast particles or whatever, can escape black holes and make it back past the event horizon, but he's had a tough time proving it, even with all the gifts God's given him. Perhaps it's a matter of faith...

Jesus is the Anti-Event Horizon. Maybe someone you know needs to be jolted awake by the Good News. Your friend in Christ,

Kristjan B

CHALLENGE

Couple of weeks ago, the leadership of The Place issued everyone a copy of a daily Bible reading guide. If you haven't got one yet, there are copies available in Cafe Suburbia (*or see the back of this issue - ed.*)

God has some direct guidelines that He has mentioned throughout His letter to us (Bible.) Things like:

Psalm 119:105 - His Word like a light for our paths

Psalm 119: 9 - Purity comes from living by His Word

So, I would like to make you a challenge.

Commit to take 5 minutes every morning, and every evening, to follow the daily devotion guide that they have given us. After 30 days, reflect back on them and see if reading and listening to God's Word has had any dramatic effect on your spiritual life.

If you want to share with others in our community what God has shown you in the daily reading, or how it is changing your life, go to www.theplace.ca, where there is a place for us to do that.

Narrowgate



EVENTS

PLACE RETREAT

Oct 28-30th & Thetis Island

A highlight of the year for many.
Deadline : tomorrow!

STICKMAN ART SHOW

Nov 5-12th @ LPC

All the art has been submitted and we're looking forward to a great show!

LEVIATHAN (JOB'S DRAGON)

Limited-edition prints by James Nesbitt.



Just before restoring Job to health and prosperity, God reveals the dragon Leviathan as a final lesson in the mystery and unknowable wonder of His creation (Job 41).

Bring the wonder and mystery of dragons into your home. Enchant your family and friends with this exquisite, postmodern painting of God's most potent creature across cultures and time -- next to man. Your kids and the kid in you will love the art & the story.

www.DragonTaleArt.com

ONGOING

SMORGASBORD

Our variety of courses continues on Wednesday nights at Lambrick.

A meal is followed by fellowship and learning. Most courses have been running a few weeks, but new ones will start up in Feb.



CCC

For anyone looking to explore theology and the arts then this is for you.

www.ccollege.org



"KEEPING THE GARDEN"

Nov 18-19th @ Elk Lake Baptist

The purpose of the conference is to explore and foster creation care in the Christian community and to promote A Rocha. Led by Dr. Loren Wilkinson (Regent College) who is a leading Christian thinker and writer on the subject of earth-keeping.

www.saanichcommunity.ca

JACOB MOON

Cafe concert Nov 18th @ LPC

Now a regular with us. This amazing singer songwriter comes from back east with some fantastic guitar playing.

www.jacobmoon.com



NEEDS

COATS

They are being collected for the homeless in Victoria.

ryan@lambrick.com

NO PARKING anywhere but the LPC or Tyndall. :: **NO STICKING GUM** under chairs :: **LOCK YOUR CAR** as there are thieves 'about'

THE REGULARS

CAFE SUBURBIA

Come experience our own coffee house after the Place every week. The Cafe also promotes bands and runs concerts at Lambrick and downtown.

cafe@theplace.ca

SMALL GROUPS

There are many groups running at the Place. If you would like info:

Contact James Kingsley at community@theplace.ca

PLACE PRAYER

The prayer room is open at 6pm Sun, 9pm Wed and after the Place. Alternatively leave a request for everyone on the website...

PLACE KIDS MINISTRY

There is always a staffed nursery at the back of the main sanctuary. For kids (K to grade 5) there are special groups that meet downstairs

kids@theplace.ca

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Andy Renton works with Middle School ages throughout the week

andy@lambrick.com

HIGH SCHOOL

Ryan MacLeod works with High School ages throughout the week

ryan@lambrick.com

INDOOR SOCCER

WED at 10-12midnight (LPC)

Our version is fun, co-ed and for all. Free, bring non-marking indoor shoes and up to date medical (!).

unforsakensoldier@hotmail.com

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

WED at 6pm or 6:30pm during Smorgasbord

Dinner, fellowship, parenting discussion and prayer. Everyone is welcome. Childcare provided.

michmaggiora@yahoo.com

TOONIE TIME

We have dreams above our base budget this year. We are going to sponsor the village of Belo and get rid of our deficit. This can all be achieved



and more if everyone gave just an extra \$4 (Starbucks) each week!

GENEROSITY :: \$\$\$

If you wish to make financial giving easier, more regular and get a tax receipt either get some envelopes, "Swipe your tithe" via Interac or set up a direct debit.

GENEROSITY :: TIME

Facilities - facilities@theplace.ca
Art / Setup - art@theplace.ca
Music - music@theplace.ca
Prayer Room - a.stevens@shaw.ca

APRES PLACE



AFTER THE PLACE :: Help us by stacking your chairs on the trollies. Find community just a few steps away in Cafe Suburbia. We would love to pray with you.

Our four core values will always be moving us forward if they become practices and spiritual disciplines. New expressions, ideas, and incarnations will always manifest... Looking back on last year, it has been wonderful to reflect on many instances of transformation:

Engagement: As a church we saw three teams venture abroad last year. One team built a house in Mexico. Their dream is to go down and build another house next year. Another team went to the North of India. They have a desire to return to continue building community with the Christians there. The third team went to Ethiopia. They came back with a desire to launch a long-term commitment to sponsor the village of Belo. What did we do locally? Along with very intentional ministries like Mosaic ... many decided to practice 'engagement' as a personal spiritual habit. From coaching soccer, to volunteering down at Gordon Head elementary, to helping a single parent move, to taking 5 minutes out of your day to talk to some homeless guy pan-handling downtown. Many at the Place took the



congregational value and personalized it. A cross-congregational team was formed in the summer to think about engagement as the lens of our church (see Engagement report.)

Beauty: This is one of the more difficult values to measure, but certainly on the artistic side of things, we were encouraged to stop, look and listen. We held two art shows, nine concerts, we recorded a CD project that raised thousands of dollars for Hearts and Hands: from Gospel Choir to our kids putting on a 'Jonah' puppet show and working with clay, we were encouraged to stop look and listen. This year we have an arts conference coming up. The Stickman Art Show is around the corner. Hopefully we have all been challenged to live life with a little more imagination. To see the beauty of creation, and the work of God's redemption ... that makes beauty out of our lives and those around us.

Community: If beauty is difficult to measure, community is difficult to quantify. The real stuff of community is in the intangibles: the laughter in the commons after the benediction, the home group that walks through difficult times together, the people that show up to encourage a graduate student at her thesis defense. The café is just full of activity after the Place. The intangibles. That being said, we want to be intentional about it. To begin with, our leadership has expressed that they themselves want to begin by practicing it better. Ideas continue to rise to the surface.

Orthodoxy: Last year, we boldly went where most churches haven't gone before. We studied the Minor Prophets. It was a great study... I grew personally. This year, we are stepping it up. We are challenging you this year to personally practice 'orthodoxy' as a spiritual habit. Along with our congregational reading and studying of scripture, we are asking you to meditate on the Psalms and Gospels everyday.

I look at what we accomplished last year and what we desire to do this year, and I see us practicing the customs and the habits of the kingdom.

Enormous thanks go out to the volunteers who give up so much to make the Place happen and bring life to our community. Here I have been asked to highlight a few who have served in the

SCHEDULE

Date	Teaching	Title
Oct 23	Mark 2:1-17	Paralytic and Pharisees
Oct 30	Mark 2:18-3:6	Fasting and Sabbath
Nov 6	Mark 3:7-19	Crowds and the 12
Nov 13	Mark 3:20-34	Beelzebub and Brothers
Nov 20	Mark 4:1-34	Sower, seeds and stand
Nov 27	Mark 3:35-5:20	Authority
Dec 4	Mark 5:21-43	12 years
Dec 11	<i>special</i>	Advent
Dec 18	<i>special</i>	Advent
Dec 25	<i>special</i>	Christmas
Jan 1	<i>special</i>	New Year

last year however, so a special mention to the Vision team (Margot Spence, Errol Nadeau, Janet Doherty, Jo Hund, Ben Williams, Scott Alexander) for their help in steering the ship. Our functional overseers - the core team of James Kingsley, Lisa Johnson and Kathy Kouri, Dave Booth, Ken Thomson, Stephanie Mitchell, Fanny Priest - have all been awesome. Ant Andrews' work behind the scenes has been essential. Thanks to Nai for taking responsibility for the welcome ministry. Launa Kremler has played a crucial role in worship, potlucks and partnering with Amy Konowalyk with the Choir. Cheers to Hilary Kingsley in the kitchen, Colin McTaggart and the sound crew, Russ Jones and the Powerpoint techs, Phil Troop for his tireless work especially with facilities, café runners, and Alison Stevens in the prayer room. James Nesbitt has been our most prolific artist and blesses us with his skills most weeks. Thanks to Rich Cain for sharing

the load with Ant. Our music leaders have put in a huge amount of work so my hat comes off to Dave Zellinsky and Ryan MacLeod. The single parents group continues to impact many lives inside and outside our community - thanks to Michelle Maggiora and Penny Hoepfner. A huge hug goes to Vinny Vaccaro and his work on the Place EP, which was amazing as well as a great fundraiser for the Ethiopia project. Finally I should mention my 'staff' - James Kingsley who is on board at Lambrick as a community life intern, and Simon Goff who makes the whole thing run. My life would not be the same without these guys!

Thank you all & God bless,

Randy Hein



DAILIES

October			
Date	Gospel Reading	Morning Psalm	Evening Psalm
Oct 23	Mark 2:1-17	114, 115	116, 117
Oct 24	Mark 2:18-20	119 (part 3, 4)	119 (part 5, 6)
Oct 25	Mark 2:21, 22	119 (part 11, 12)	119 (part 13, 14)
Oct 26	Mark 2:23-26	119 (part 19, 20)	119 (part 21, 22)
Oct 27	Mark 2:27, 28	126, 127, 128	129, 130, 131
Oct 28	Mark 3:1-4	136	137, 138
Oct 29	Mark 3:5, 6	141	142, 143
Oct 30	Mark 2:18-3:6	144, 146	145
Oct 31	Mark 3:7, 8	148, 149, 150	147

November			
Date	Gospel Reading	Morning Psalm	Evening Psalm
Nov 1	Mark 3:9, 10	1, 2, 3	4, 5
Nov 2	Mark 3:11, 12	9	10
Nov 3	Mark 3:13	15, 16	17
Nov 4	Mark 3:14, 15	19	20, 21
Nov 5	Mark 3:16-19	24, 26	25
Nov 6	Mark 3:7-19	30, 32	31
Nov 7	Mark 3:20, 21	35	36
Nov 8	Mark 3:22	38	39, 41
Nov 9	Mark 3:23-26	44	45
Nov 10	Mark 3:27-30	50	51, 52
Nov 11	Mark 3:31-33	56	57
Nov 12	Mark 3:34	63, 67	62, 64
Nov 13	Mark 3:20-34	68 (part 1)	68 (part 2)
Nov 14	Mark 4:1-12	71	72
Nov 15	Mark 4:13-20	75, 76	77
Nov 16	Mark 4:21-25	79, 80	81
Nov 17	Mark 4:26-29	86, 87	88
Nov 18	Mark 4:30-34	90	91
Nov 19	Mark 4:35-41	95, 96	97
Nov 20	Mark 4:1-41	102	103
Nov 21	Mark 5:1-5	105 (part 1)	105 (part 2)
Nov 22	Mark 5:6-10	107 (part 1)	107 (part 2)
Nov 23	Mark 5:11-13	110, 111	112, 113
Nov 24	Mark 5:14, 15	118	119 (part 1, 2)
Nov 25	Mark 5:16, 17	119 (part 7, 8)	119 (part 9, 10)
Nov 26	Mark 5:18-20	119 (part 15, 16)	119 (part 17, 18)
Nov 27	Mark 5:1-20	120, 121, 122	123, 124, 125
Nov 28	Mark 5:21-24	132, 133	134
Nov 29	Mark 5:25-29	139	140
Nov 30	Mark 5:30-34	145	144, 146

December			
Date	Gospel Reading	Morning Psalm	Evening Psalm
Dec 1	Mark 5:35, 36	6, 8	
Dec 2	Mark 5:37-40	11, 12	7
Dec 3	Mark 5:40-43	18	13, 14
Dec 4	Mark 5:21-43	22	19
Dec 5	Isaiah 40:1-5	28, 29	23
Dec 6	Isaiah 40:6-11	33	27
Dec 7	Isaiah 40:12-14	37 (part 1)	34
Dec 8	Isaiah 40:15-20	40	37 (part 2)
Dec 9	Isaiah 40:21-27	46, 47	34
Dec 10	Isaiah 40:28-31	53, 54	37 (part 2)
Dec 11	Advent	59	55
Dec 12	Luke 1:1-4	65	60, 61
Dec 13	Luke 1:5-25	69	66
Dec 14	Luke 1:26-38	73	71
Dec 15	Luke 1:39-45	78 (part 1)	74
Dec 16	Luke 1:46-56	82, 83	78 (part 2)
Dec 17	Luke 1:57-66	89 (part 1)	84, 85
Dec 18	Advent	92, 93	89 (part 2)
Dec 19	Matthew 1:1-17	98, 99	94
Dec 20	Matthew 1:18-25	103	100, 101
Dec 21	John 1:1-5	106 (part 1)	104
Dec 22	John 1:6-13	114, 115	106 (part 2)
Dec 23	Luke 2:1-7	119 (part 3, 4)	109
Dec 24	Luke 2:8-20	119 (part 11, 12)	116, 117
Dec 25	Christmas	119 (part 19, 20)	119 (part 5, 6)
Dec 26	Matthew 2:1-6	126, 127, 128	119 (part 13, 14)
Dec 27	Matthew 2:7-12	136	119 (part 21, 22)
Dec 28	Matthew 2:13-18	141	129, 130, 131
Dec 29	Matthew 2:19-23	144, 146	137, 138
Dec 30	Matthew 3:1-3	148, 149, 150	142, 143
Dec 31	Matthew 3:4-12		145

{CMMNPLC}
dropping vowels since 2003

