

CONNECTIONPOINT

connect | ignite | inspire | transform |

JANUARY 2012



Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created..." KJV



"Behold, I am making all things new" Revelation 21:5 NASB

What is it about new things... things that have not been used prior? Imagine the earth when it was new, fresh, clean, clear. In a book that started with all new things in Genesis it also ends with new things. Revelation 21:5 "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" He does not say, *I am making new things* but rather, *I am making things new!!!* Could there be enough exclamation points for a statement like this?? Ever the perpetual Creator by nature this is not just the good news of the first and last books of the Bible, it is in the very heart of His promise when we come to Him in the middle of an everyday thousands of years after creation and open our heart to Jesus Christ himself. God's all over the new. He started it! He's the only One who has the original instructions. But what's even more relevant to you and me is that He's

not about tossing the old things out or giving up on anyone but He's about making old things new! 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God!" Jump up and down for joy right now because you can take this promise to the bank and deposit it today. If you are new in this relationship with Christ or if, like me, you have the dustiest red shoes covered with the muck of a long journey sometimes on track, sometimes off, this newness is not just for heaven but for those of us who have stumbled all the way to the cross. It is His kingdom come in our very moment. Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." John 5:17 Yup, I think He is up to something. I'm excited!

God as the architect of the Universe

('God as the Creator' pictured on the front cover of this issue is located in a Gothic Manuscript)

"This famous Bible moralisée is one of the most luxurious Gothic manuscripts of the 13th century. On 136 illustrated pages, no less than 1032 picture medallions are to be found, one full-page miniature which earned great interest, depicts God as the Creator of the World. The Creation of the Heavens, of the Earth, Sun and Moon and the other elements is compressed in this one picture. The depiction of the Creator God who steps out, bending over the cosmos which is rolling in front of him, and forming it by measuring it with a pair of compasses, has drawn the attention of many, not only for its impressive execution but also because it represents the importance of measuring and proportions in the Middle Ages in an unequalled manner."

http://www.adeva.com/faks_detail_en.asp?id=88

ON THE COVER: 'God as the Creator'
The Bible moralisée | French Gothic Period
Gothic Manuscripts 1220 - 1230
Vienna, Austrian National Library, Cod. Vindob. 2554, Paris



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To access a soft copy of this issue go to www.gracepoint.ca/who-we-are/connection-point

2012. The Mayan's believed it will be a big year (though check this for a more accurate account of 2012 than movie depictions: <http://news.discovery.com/space/the-2012-mayan-calendar-doomsday-date-might-be-wrong.html>)

The future is in God's hands, not human ones. This gives me enormous hope.

I'm not big on resolutions, but I do believe the God who spoke all things into existence and acted to redeem me and you and this world from the ravages of sin is resolved to do new things. He promises this (Isaiah 43:19). I believe he is resolved to do a new thing among us in 2012.

In September 2011 we entered a season of being still and waiting on God (Psalm 46). We needed to sit in the mess of life as we knew it. The church is a family and sometimes we must face tough conversations and navigate bumpy roads in the family station wagon. We have done that:

- We renewed our commitment to be a healthy Christ-centered community.
- We updated our leadership team policy (find it [here](#); on the Gracepoint website or on page 26 & 27 of this issue)
- We intentionally created space to begin the journey of healing and reconciling.
- We gathered for conversation and prayer at FUEL gatherings (next one is January 25).



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- We began the process of calling out new elders.
- We reengaged our search for student and children's pastors.
- We ate together at both our campus loca-

tions.

- We shared our time, talents, and finances generously to further God's mission.

I believe we are ready as a community of faith to step into the next chapter of the story God is writing through Gracepoint. That's not to say we've got everything perfectly squared away, but as we've rallied together beneath the goodness of God we have learned much about what it means to be church. There is renewed hope. The Holy Spirit is active. We take up our cross to follow Jesus along the road he leads.

All that said, here are a few things I'm looking forward to in 2012:

1. The arrival of our new lead student pastor, Chris Reitmayer. Chris will begin serving with us mid-January. He will invest in our youth and oversee ministry to students by equipping great volunteers. Chris knows this area well and is a respected, capable, thoughtful servant. I invite you to welcome Chris, Sheena and Madelyn with open arms. (Learn more about Chris on page 29 of this issue)

2. The unpacking and refining of a sharpened Gracepoint vision. Our staff asked the big question of why we do what we do. We have a renewed conviction of the simplicity of God's purpose for his people. We look forward to unpacking this together in 2012. But, here's a teaser: we hope to discover what happens when we follow Jesus every day as those who experience God and engage our world together.

3. The development of a new leadership team. In early January we will affirm new elders to oversee our life as a church. Pray for them as they offer their

gifts and strengths to serve.

4. The wise stewardship of our shared resources for God's glory. Our stewardship team will set a budget for the first half of 2012 to help us understand our true reality. We have great opportunities before us as well as some important decisions to make. I am hopeful God will continue to stir us to generosity. I am also confident he will provide the wisdom we need make good decisions.

5. The city smelling more like Jesus because you live here. I believe you are making an eternal impact on one another and our cities. I can't wait to see that he does through you next and to hear the stories of lives transformed because of your influence.

Finally, I invite you to know me better. My book, *Kingdom Culture: Growing the Missional Church* is available through the office for \$15. All proceeds above printing costs will go back to Gracepoint to further our work together. The book didn't win a Pulitzer, but it will give you a picture of what drives me to live and serve for the sake of Christ and the world.

Happy ReNew Year!

Things you might want to know:
Did you know that Pastor Phil writes a blog?

THEOphilUS
Random babblings from rare silence for my Jerusalem and beyond.
First post: September 2006

Check it out
www.theo-phil-us.blogspot.com



As you are reading this, you might very well be ready for transition away from Christmas. The season has been amazing, but in all honesty you might very well have had your fill of egg nog, your tree – if it is still up – is a dangerous fire hazard, and you can't seem to stomach another go-round of Boney M's "Feliz Navidad." If you are at all feeling guilty about wanting to move away from Christmas for another year, don't. I think the short season of Christmas in many ways is exactly what keeps our traditions special. Egg nog just wouldn't taste the same in July.

But while we move away from the traditions of Christmas for another eleven months, I wonder at times how we keep the meaning of Christmas at the forefront of our living. Christmas is really about **Emmanuel** – God with us – and we celebrate the fact that Jesus stepped out of the comforts of heaven and lived and walked in our broken world. But Emmanuel is more than just celebrating it, it is about living it. **Emmanuel** is about living today – each day – with the reality that Jesus walked among us.

So what does **Emmanuel** mean for us? In our Gracepoint family it means God is at work among us, and we are responding in amazing ways.

Generosity - We have had many who have contacted the church office looking for ways to help others at Christmas time. Every single one has had the opportunity of showing the love of Jesus through giving gifts and hampers, and the recipients have been touched very deeply. Someone in our area who doesn't attend church received a hamper and was moved to tears at the expression of generosity to her.

Community – Many have moved this Fall into life groups, mentoring relationships, triads, and so forth. We have grown closer as a church and have grown because of it. Freedom Session, a program our church has embraced – is seeing over forty people weekly gathering in relationship to work through issues in life and finding freedom.

Serving – People have stepped up in huge ways to serve our community. Whether it be our Community Dinner, single dad's ministry, the Luke 15 recovery ministry, or a host of other ways, Gracepoint people are increasing their involvement in places where tangible needs are. People are also using their gifts well to help Gracepoint be all God wants it to be.



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Emmanuel is a life-changing concept for us. It means that we live to serve a living God who came and walked among us. Because he did, we have hope today. We have hope today!

So while we wait another 330 days before we begin another advent, we live out **Emmanuel** today, tomorrow, and the rest of the year. God came to us – what a life-changing, year-round message that is.

Perhaps you noted that in the last few days leading up to 2012, there were all kinds of economic and political experts being interviewed on radio and television for their thoughts on what was in store for 2012. Many people are interested in hearing what these modern "prophets" have to say. Why? The reasons vary. On the surface some people will tell you that they are hoping to get financial advice, while others are interested in world affairs or peace. Yet, at the deeper level, the reason people listen to these pundits is because they want personal security or peace of mind. In essence, fear is driving people to seek advice. However, seeking the advice of such pundits will not lead to security or peace. Why not?

Placing our emotional well-being on the outcome of economic factors or world events never leads to our desired state. Our well-being should be placed on something more solid and predictable. Whatever happens in the markets or world events may interest us but it should not control us. If our well-being is based on current events, we are setting ourselves up for an emotional "yo-yo" of a year.

In addition, it is just foolish to rely on media experts to tell us about the future. The truth is that they are often wrong. The CBC recently aired a documentary entitled, "The Trouble with Experts". The documentary by filmmaker Josh Freed tells us about our dependence on experts. From trusting them to tell us how to eat, parent, interpret political events, and buy stocks. However, Freed's research shows that the "experts" are often wrong and not worthy of trust. For example, the economic meltdown of 2008 showed that some of our most sought after experts – our financial gurus – did not have a clue about the fragility of the economy before it happened. Not one of them had predicted that such a meltdown would occur in the beginning of the year or in the days before the market collapsed. As a result, many people who had listened to the experts in the beginning of 2008 suffered irreversible financial loss. In fact, a 20-year study of experts shows they're only right about half the time. (You can view the documentary at <http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/episode/the-trouble-with-experts.html>.)

If well-being in 2012 is not to be based on happenings or based on the guess work of so-called experts, what should we base our hope on? Our peace of mind should come from our relationship with a God who not only knows the future with certainty but will be with us, come what may. If our joy is the result of our relationship and confidence in God, it doesn't matter what happens in 2012. While we may face economic loss, relational struggles, severe sickness or even death, our joy is not rooted in these things but in a God that gives us peace even if events are not going our way. God is not a "magic genie" who will protect us from all harm. However, God will be there to help us to experience peace, joy, and hope in all things as we call upon God.

As you face 2012, "may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thessalonians 2: 16, 17



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I love the ocean. I love to walk along its shores in the quiet of the morning when most of humanity are still lying in their beds or busy going about their days business and the only sounds I hear are the waves slapping on the shore and the occasional seagull squawking overhead. There is something inside that seems to draw my spirit out to the depths and the vastness of the ocean and leaves me with a sense of wonder and awe at its grandeur and majesty and at the same time an awareness of my own smallness. This awareness rarely happens when I walk there in the busyness of the day when I am distracted by others bustling about chatting, running and pushing their strollers or feeding the gulls. It, as mentioned, happens usually in the morning when I'm alone, undistracted and lingering in the sounds of the ocean. It is at such times as these that I am reminded of the magnificence of God and His creation and left with a sense of rest and peace.

These times are enhanced on the rare occasion when I stop to examine a tide pool, a small body of water that has been left in a dip in the shore or a hollow among some rocks as the tide recedes. In these pools, if one takes the time, there is a complexity of life to be seen, caught there by the receding tide that can fill the mind with wonder and intrigue. As one lingers there, a further awareness of the vastness of life out there in the ocean which, what you see, is like a drop in a bucket.

As I ponder God's word, I am reminded of the ocean and its shores. As the ocean is so broad and deep beyond imagination, so is God's word. One cannot take it all in at once, but only in small amounts at a time. And, just as the ocean is teeming with a complexity of life, some that has not even been discovered, as yet by man, so is God's word. It is full of pearls of wisdom and insight waiting there for the spirit to reveal to you and I (Proverbs 2:1-9). Likewise, as the ocean leaves pools of water that are teeming with some of that life when the tide recedes, so does God leave pools of wisdom and insight in our lives as we take the time to let His word wash over us.

I have discovered also that, just as the wonder of the ocean and its abundance of life is not really made aware to us as we bustle along in the busyness of life, the wonders of God's word is hidden to us also if we just quickly read through it without taking the time to prayerfully linger in His word in a place free from distractions. I trust that all who do this and who will do this will find, as I do, a place of rest and peace. (John 14:27)



Allan Moffat

Thy word is like an ocean Lord,
With tide pools to inspect;
And any, who will linger there,
Shall find a place of rest.

THY WORD

Edwin Hodder 1837 - 1904

Thy Word is like a garden Lord
With flowers bright and fair
And everyone, who seeks, may find
A lovely garland there.

Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine,
And jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths
For every searcher there

Thy Word is like a glorious choir,
And loud its anthems ring;
Though many tongues and parts unite,
It is one song they sing

Thy Word is like an armoury,
Where soldiers may repair,
And find for life's long battle-day
All needful weapons there.

Oh! May I love **Thy precious Word**,
May I explore its mine!
May I its fragrant flowers glean,
May light upon me shine!

Oh! May I find my armour there,
Thy Word, my trusty sword;
I'll learn to fight with every foe
The battle of the Lord.

(My addition *Allan Moffat*)

Thy Word is like an athlete's gym,
Where weights and treadmills line;
And everyone who applies himself,
Will strength and fitness find.

Thy Word is like a science lab,
Where flasks and burners shine;
And all who will venture there,
Will new discoveries find.

Thy Word is like an ocean Lord,
With tide pools to inspect;
And any who will linger there,
Will find a place of rest.

How precious is **Thy Word** oh Lord,
A training course for life;
Answers to our questions, Lord,
A place where we'll be blessed.

Thy Word is like a bakery,
With scrumptious rolls, and sweets;
And all who come, may purchase there,
Life giving bread for free.

Thy Word is like a mountain stream,
With waters fresh and clean;
And all who come and drink of it,
Are washed from sins and freed.

Thy Word is like a shepherd's rod,
With authority and power intact;
And all who will make use of it,
Shall, by Your Spirit act.

Thy Word is like a shepherd's staff,
That draws us to Thy self;
That guides us on the path of life,
That makes Thy presence felt.

Oh, Lord help me from **Thy Word** to
feed,
To drink of its cleansing stream;
To act on its authority,
And be drawn close to Thee.

Thy Word is like a puzzle Lord,
With pieces to and fro;
But, all who study and connect them, Lord,
Will a splendid picture grow.

Thy Word is like an Atlas, Lord,
With maps on every page;
And those who will search therein,
Are sure to find their way.

Thy word is like a smorgasbord,
With scrumptious food to eat;
And all who come to feast thereof,
Will be satisfied, complete.

Thy Word is like a microscope,
That expands our view of sight;
That opens up new visions, Lord,
And helps us see more light.

Oh, help me study **Thy Word**, I pray,
To partake of Thy great feast;
To discover Your way of Life, oh Lord,
To see what You'd have me see.



'The Days of Creation - The Fifth Day'
1870 -76 Edward Burne Jones
Fogg Museum, Harvard University

Three Christmas Gifts

By the time this article appears in Connection Point, Christmas day will have come and gone and we are left with January to ponder the miracle and myriad gifts of Christmas. For me, it felt like Christmas came early this year with so many people glorifying God with the gifts that He has given them, so that those gifts might in turn be a blessing to others. With this article, I would like to highlight and say thank you Gracepoint for just three of the extraordinary gifts of Christmas 2011.

01 A couple of weeks prior to Advent, Alison Boettcher contacted me with a fabulous idea for celebrating and decorating during the Christmas season. By now, you have all seen the signs that highlighted the four words of our Advent tradition: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Alison asked me what I thought of words created by individuals and families, featuring different backgrounds and textures utilizing the colours of the four candles – gold, blue, green, and red. I was momentarily dumbfounded by the brilliance of such a simple idea. Not only will we decorate for Advent, but also we will invite several of God's people to participate across two campuses at Gracepoint. How cool is that?! So, I called on Warren Terrace to build all the necessary forms, while the creative designs were supplied by: Alison Boettcher (hope@both campuses), Gracepoint Youth (peace@Surrey South), Linda Joyce (peaceandjoy@Bell), Allison Hamilton (love@Bell), Shari and Talia Zindler (joy@Surrey South), and Caleb Wagler (love@Surrey South). As a side note, I love that some of our artful designers chose to serve their sister campus by creating signs that they wouldn't even get to see at their home campus on Sunday morning. Thank you for the inspiration and your spirit of generosity. Every single week during Advent, Alison Boettcher was busy at Surrey South setting up the stage while at the Bell campus, Linda and Andrew Joyce led a small crew from their clan every Sunday morning at 9am to get ready for a 10:30 service. A huge thank you to everyone who brought this sacrificial and creative gift to life!! What a blessing to your King and entire church family.

02 On December 18th, we all got to enjoy the gift of the Gracepoint Children's Choir leading us in worship. Even the preschoolers got in on the action by blessing us with their unique version of 'Away in a Manger.' I just love being able to worship with the kids! All of the older kids practiced for five(5) consecutive weeks, giving up their Thursday evenings and showing up in pyjamas so they could go right to bed after practice. Also, I want to highlight the fact that this year ALL of the parents and kids made the extra effort to be at both campuses on the morning of the 18th. Thank you guys for your generosity and willingness to serve our growing community. I want to thank Deb Mitchell for directing another amazing choir. Deb has been directing the kids for nearly a decade or more and I have never seen anyone as gifted at leading kids! I also want to thank Rachel Jongejan for assisting Deb with this year's choir. In the coming months, Rachel will be taking on the role of directing the choir herself and we are so blessed by her enthusiasm and love of the kids. Finally, thank you so much to Sonja Boomer for directing the pre-schoolers. Sonja has been leading the little ones for as long as I can recall and she always does such a great job! You have all blessed us with your leadership and willingness to serve.



03 This year, we had more than twenty(20) Gracepointers willing to come out for Carol Crawl 2011. As a result of your willingness to get involved, not to mention some persistent phone calling to local pubs and grocery stores, we were able to bless people with some Christmas cheer and lift high the name of Jesus at Southpoint Station Pub, Central City Brewing Co., Surrey Central Mall, and Save-On Foods in Newton. It's always such a good time. Thank you to everyone who came out to share the very BEST gift of Jesus Christ! You Rock!!

I hope everyone reading this article had a fabulous Christmas and I hope you are looking forward to what God has in store for Gracepoint in 2012. If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved with Gracepoint Worship Arts (GpWA), drop me a line anytime! Peace,

Gregg Baker 
(Creative Programming Director/Music Pastor)
gregg@gracepoint.ca



In January 2012, GpWA is holding a retreat at Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre, from the 19th to the 21st. (re)Generation 2012 is about gathering together as the artistic community of Gracepoint. We are intentionally coming together in the middle of Winter—a season that is often portrayed in the Arts as representative of death and the end of all things new—because we know that it is in winter that God is preparing the seeds of new life that will burst forth in Spring. So, we want to gather as a community in a creative space that promotes listening. We want to listen to God and to each other, to find out what new dreams and visions God has for us.

If you have been involved in GpWA in any capacity over the past months and years, we want you to come (and if you have a spouse, we want them to come too).

If you are at all interested in the Arts and you call Gracepoint your home church, then we want you to come. There is only one set limitation : : this is an adult-oriented spiritual retreat and there is no programming for children. We strongly recommend a weekend break for you (and for the sake of your kids:).

If you are interested in joining us, email danica@gracepoint.ca



'King Guitars' by Laurie Justus Pace
oil on canvas
<http://ellepace.com>

Sunday jams

next jam JAN 15.2012

jams are 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-4pm at the surrey south campus in the rehearsal studio downstairs sessions run from mid jan - end of june early sept - end of nov

TO REGISTER email gregg@gracepoint.ca

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY at Gracepoint For children from birth to Grade 5



Your kids mean the world to you. We get that—

and that's why we provide a safe, fun atmosphere where kids can discover God's truth, where the Bible is relevant, applicable and taught creatively by leaders who care deeply about your kids' spiritual growth. We believe there's no limit to what God can do when kids get involved in a Jesus-centred children's program like Kids Unlimited.

SUNDAY PROGRAM (0-Gr.5):

FAITHWEAVER® SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

FaithWeaver lessons help students focus on a growing relationship with Jesus. Whether they're studying Bible stories from the Old Testament or the New Testament, learners will be challenged to grow closer to Jesus every week and weave faith into life. By providing meaningful activities, great discussions, and personal challenges, *FaithWeaver* takes learners past head knowledge of the Bible and into heart and life-change.



With **FaithWeaver Curriculum**, KU kids from 2 years to grade 5 will

- experience God's story in fresh, fun, meaningful ways;
- understand God's Word by doing surprising, fun stuff;
- discover the adventure of applying God's truth to everyday life;
- build a forever friendship with Jesus—*FaithWeaver's* goal is just that: to weave faith in Jesus Christ into all areas of learners' lives.

FaithWeaver takes families through the entire Bible in three years

FaithWeaver is a three-year program broken up into four quarters per year. To help students understand the Old Testament as a whole, learners explore it chronologically during the summer and fall quarters. Then winter and spring quarter *FaithWeaver* lessons focus on the New Testament.



The Home Connect pages will also help encourage families to integrate what they learned into daily life

midweek programs

GIRLS CLUB (Gr.1-5)

GEMS will reconvene in the New Year on Mon, Jan.9-12.

Mondays @ 6:00-8:30pm, Surrey South Campus

The purpose of GEMS *Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour* Club is to bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

To register &/or for more info, contact Janet Loewen: jamesandjanet@telus.net or 604-536-7668



partnering with parents resources

WALK THRU THE BIBLE EVENT – NEW TESTAMENT

Sat, Jan.21@ 9am-2pm, Surrey South Campus

For ages 8yrs & up

Registration forms provided at the church office or in the Sunday programs.

Registration: \$40 per person/\$125 per family*

*family rate only applies to members of one family

Registration cost includes complimentary childcare for gr.1 and under, light lunch and workbook.

For more information about Walk Thru the Bible, check-out www.walkthru.org.

THE PARENT LINK: Children's Ministry Edition

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR NURTURING CHILDREN'S FAITH

January issue: Cope With Rebellion Constructively

This month's newsletter explores ways to address rebellious behaviour. The focus is on moulding children into Christians who strive to obey God and respect other people. As children grow, it's important to adapt discipline strategies to meet their developmental needs. So this issue explores a variety of ideas for dealing with rebellion out of love.

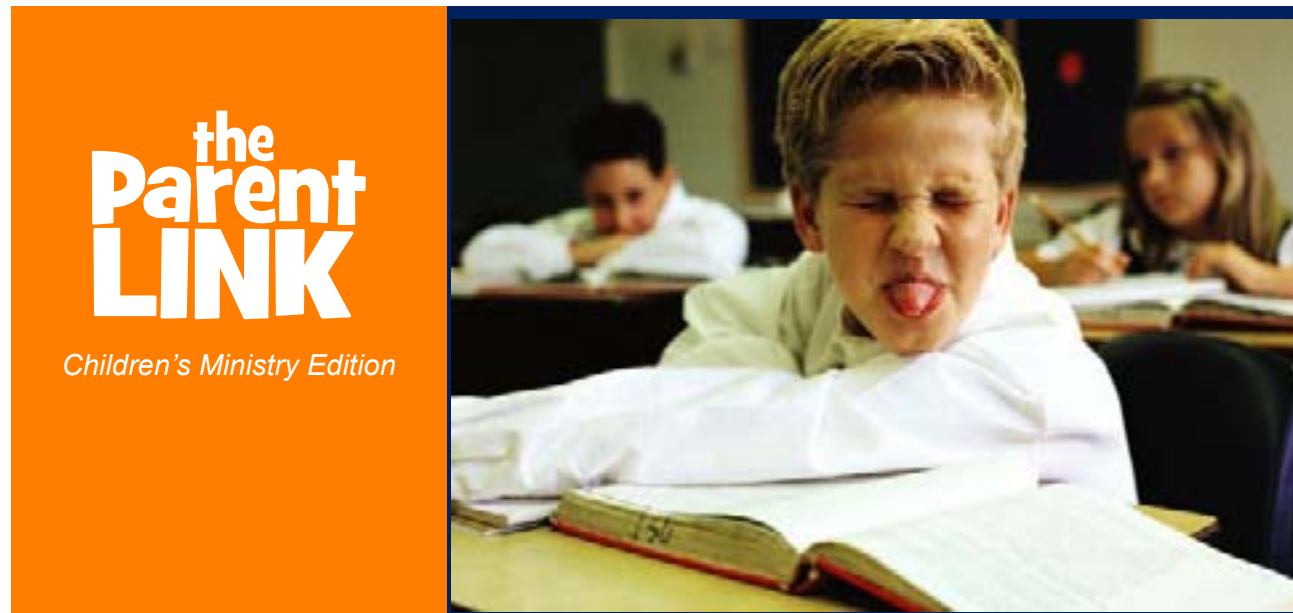
Highlights of this new issue include:

- Age-appropriate insights and strategies for handling rebellion.
- Discussion questions to help family members ponder the role of rules.
- Two fun family activities about following and obeying God.
- Information about the new movie *We Bought a Zoo* and the debut album from

15-year-old Christian singer Rachel Chan.

From everyone at The Parent Link, have a joy-filled Christmas as you celebrate our Saviour's birth!

Stephanie Martin
Editor, The ParentLink



January 2012



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. For guidance as you set appropriate rules and boundaries.
2. To help you deal with rebellion in a calm, positive, and loving manner.
3. To forgive you when you rebel against God and his commands.

Deal With Rebellion Constructively

Because of sin, all of us rebel against authorities and God. As parents quickly discover, children are no exception. These little “angels” assert independence by rebelling against rules from a young age. But the Bible instructs parents to discipline children out of love, molding them into Christians who strive to obey God and respect other people. Use these strategies for dealing with rebellion as children grow:

- Birth to 2 years: Accept that God gives even newborns the ability to display unique temperaments. Provide lots of comfort and warmth.
- 3 to 4 years: Listen carefully and respond to children’s physical and emotional needs. Explore what upsets them. Model Christ’s love by giving kids affection.
- 5 to 7 years: Offer choices and clear consequences for disobedience. Balance your demands with warmth and reason.
- 8 to 12 years: Consistently enforce rules. Let children know you trust them, and praise them for a job well done. Evaluate tough situations and ask what kids can do differently next time.

INSIGHTS

- In a survey of 2,000 parents with children ages 2 to 11, 38% said they use the same discipline method as their own parents did.
- Parents report using the following discipline methods frequently: time-outs (42%), removal of privileges (41%), sending to bedroom (27%), yelling (13%), and spanking (9%).
- One-third of parents believe their discipline approach is ineffective. (cpj.sagepub.com)

the Parent LINK

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners.
 (1 Timothy 1:15)

God used Paul, who once persecuted Christians, to spread the news of God’s grace and forgiveness.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. When You Were My Age—Share with children some of the rules you had to follow while growing up, whether they’re different from or similar to your current household rules. Then discuss some ways rules are good for us, even when we don’t like to follow them.

2. God’s Grace—While discussing people in the Bible who made bad choices and faced consequences, be sure to emphasize God’s grace, as well. For example, King David suffered greatly after sinning, but he sought—and received—God’s forgiveness.

3. Commandments 2.0—Work together to reword each of God’s Ten Commandments as a loving guideline from a loving God. For example, you may write, “Because I want you to be protected from religions that would mislead you, don’t have any other gods except me.”

Discuss rebellion and obedience by asking children these conversation-starting questions:

1. What makes people rebel, or break the rules? Why is it sometimes difficult to do what we’re supposed to do?
2. How is rule-setting an act of love? What should we do when a rule doesn’t seem loving or when we disagree with it?
3. How does God respond to our sins and mistakes? How do you respond when other people break rules, and why?

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Use these activities to share the message that God wants us to follow and obey him.

- **The Master’s Voice—**Set up an obstacle course and have family members take turns trying to navigate it while blindfolded. Designate one person to give correct directions while everyone else shouts out wrong directions. Afterward, discuss what it was like trying to decide which voice to trust. Read John 10:1-5. Ask: “What makes it difficult to hear God’s voice and follow his instructions? What are some ways God speaks to us and helps us learn to hear him?” Close in prayer, asking God to make you good listeners and followers of him.
- **Family Footprints—**Make imprints of your feet as reminders to walk with God. You’ll need a large sheet of black plastic, sand, plaster of Paris, water, and a mixing bucket. Pour 3 inches of sand onto the black plastic. Mix enough water into the sand so it’ll hold a mold. Mix the plaster of Paris and water in the bucket according to the directions. Help each family member press a foot 2 inches into the sand. Carefully pour plaster into each footprint. The plaster takes 30 minutes to harden.

While prints are drying, read aloud Joshua 22:5 and discuss what it means to walk with God. Ask: “What ways do we rely on each other? What ways do you rely on God? How are these ways similar or different?” When the footprints have hardened, gently dig them out. Then display them in your yard or garden as reminders to obey and walk with God.

the Parent LINK



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie: *We Bought a Zoo*

Genre: Comedy, Drama

Rating: PG (for language and some thematic elements)

Cast: Matt Damon, Elle Fanning

Synopsis: After his wife dies, a father moves his family to a new home that comes with a struggling private zoo. The ensuing adventures help the family pull together and heal.

Our Take: Use this film, based on a real story, as a launching point to discuss challenges you've faced and overcome as a family.



MUSIC

Artist: Rachel Chan

Album: *Go*

Artist Info: Rachel is the 15-year-old daughter of preacher and author Francis Chan.

Summary: Rachel's debut album addresses common struggles, such as disobeying parents. The song "Prove It" puts a "funny twist on what a godly relationship between father and daughter should look like," she says.

Our Take: Rachel's talent and boldness about her faith make her a positive influence on preteen music fans.



CULTURE & TRENDS

- Studies show that religious identity and the friends you make at church lead to happiness. The close interactions, researchers say, are what contribute to feelings of well-being. (*American Sociological Review*)
- Music stations such as Radio Disney acknowledge that parents are now a core part of their audience. They're reaching out to people who grew up listening to those tunes. Marketers say a mixture of genres has led to Radio Disney's longevity. (*reuters.com*)

QUICK STATS

- As many as 10% of kids have an anxiety disorder. Experts recommend parents acknowledge feelings, provide plenty of down time, and encourage physical exercise and journaling. (*Dept. of Health & Human Services*)
- 71% of moms say they can't go more than a day without using the Internet. Meanwhile, 42% of children think their parents need to disconnect from technology more at home. (*parenting.com*)

GAMES, SITES & APPS

| Title | Content | Rating & Platform |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Fortune Street</i> | Players move along a board, similar to Monopoly. They can choose to be a variety of characters and play on 15 different game boards. | E; Wii |
| <i>Aqua Mania</i> | This compilation of "sims" for water lovers includes My Sim Aquarium, My Ocean Sim, and three other games. | E; PC (\$4.99 at amazon.com) |
| <i>Star Walk</i> | With this GPS-based app, families can go on a walk at night and learn about stars and planets, with charts tailored to your location. (Use adult supervision.) | \$3 at itunes.com |

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.

THE PARENT LINK

January 2012
FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

OFFER HOPE TO SELF-HARMERS

The problems facing today's young people may not be bigger than what teenagers faced 20 years ago, but they're multiplying. To cope with stress, abuse, broken homes, peer pressure, addictions, depression, and low self-esteem, many teenagers harm themselves through cutting, eating disorders, and engaging in risky behavior.

When life gets tough, there's no help or hope found in paralyzing guilt, rejection, or searching for scapegoats. Instead, it's essential for parents to stick with and accept teenagers, seek help, extend forgiveness, and promote healing.

First, honestly evaluate any signs of self-destructive behavior. Watch for scratches, scars, burns, isolation, fainting, tooth decay, a drastic change in eating habits, or a fixation on perceived physical flaws. Gently but persistently bring the problem to light. Avoid the extremes of blowing up or delicately sidestepping the problem. State the facts while expressing genuine concern. Explain that you'll help your teenager find other ways to work through tough emotions. Work to identify the root cause and sustaining factors, including your current family culture. Then include your teenager as much as possible in an action plan. Work with a trusted physician or counselor, giving your teen some say in the process. This can be the time when teenagers begin walking down the road to freedom, and you can help set them on that course.

THE VIEW

- One in five teens says they've purposely injured themselves at some time.
- An estimated one in every 200 teenage girls cuts themselves regularly. Without treatment, this behavior often continues into adulthood.
- In a study, most chronic self-mutilators described their families as "full of anger...in which they were told to always be strong and prevented from expressing their feelings."

TIPS >>>

Group's Emergency Response Handbook for Parents offers guidelines about how to talk to teenagers who are hurting:

What Not To Say

- **"You're scaring me."** Expressing shock or horror reinforces the belief that teens are isolated, different, and even deserving of the inflicted pain.
- **"If I find you doing this again..."** Self-destructive behavior isn't a character issue. Rules and consequences won't affect emotions, although you can limit negative influences.
- **"You're too skinny."** This brings the focus back to body image and makes weight loss the center of attention.

What To Say

- **"I know you've been hurting yourself."** The only effective way to deal with this problem is to face it head-on. Accusations and demands usually backfire, but a humble, honest explanation of the truth can be a first step to freedom.
- **"Have you noticed any circumstances, events, or patterns that occur before you react this way?"** Upon reflection, teenagers may realize they feel the urge to engage in self-destructive behavior at certain times. Work together to find other means of responding to emotional pain.
- **"Let's get help."** Assure teenagers you love them unconditionally and will walk with them through whatever it takes to find healing.

PONDER THIS

- What self-destructive behavior or choices of your own might be influencing your teenagers?
- What adjectives would best describe your home life? How can you make it more conducive to honest expressions of emotion?



16 CONNECTION POINT JAN. 2012

PARENT LINK - MEDIA MADNESS

PARENT LINK - FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

CONNECTION POINT JAN. 2012 17



Rx for Healing

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Megan Hutchinson

I've been blessed to come alongside hurting teens for many years and have recognized that they all have one thing in common: something significant is missing deep within. And that something is very basic and is intentionally designed by God. Kids want to be 1.) nurtured patiently, 2.) accepted as they are, and 3.) loved genuinely. If these are absent from teenagers' primary relationships, there inevitably will be pain.

Typically, that pain begins to surface during the adolescent years, when developmental changes are at their peak. And that's where parents and youth

workers come in. We're privileged to be part of these kids' lives just when they're hurting the most. Here's how you can meet their three key needs:

1. Patient Nurture. Be tender and empathic. Come alongside young people and help them grow as if they're a fragile plant in need of gentleness and care. Nurturing is powerful because it validates the very emotion that's gone ignored and subdued in each hurting teen.

2. Unconditional Acceptance. This means welcoming teenagers as they are. Respect who they are as people, not as "kids" who need special treatment. Embrace

teenagers regardless of your personal preferences or moral positions...no strings attached.

3. Genuine Love. Be the hands, heart, and mouthpiece of Jesus with kids. See each one as a precious soul cherished and loved by the Creator himself. Consistently show up in their lives with encouragement, belief, and hope for what they cannot see for themselves. Just as Jesus modeled with the woman at the well, love teenagers the way they are, but then refuse to leave them the way they are.

Megan Hutchinson, co-creator of the curriculum *Life Hurts, God Heals*, writes at SimplyYouthMinistry.com.

RESOURCE



The three-week series *Scarred: Preparing for the Hurt in Life* (Simply Youth Ministry) by Doug Fields and Megan Hutchinson helps young people prepare to deal with life's pain but also shows them how God can use that pain to create beauty.

BIBLE FOCUS

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

1 Peter 4:12-13

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

MAINSTREAM MUSIC



FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

Background: This English band consists of singer Florence Welch and a group of collaborators. Their first album was a hit—especially in England—but they're now well known here, too. Their style recalls past alternative acts, such as Kate Bush and Siouxsie and the Banshees, along with modern artists such as Björk and Fiona Apple. Florence is also known for her unique fashion stylings. Both albums focus on love and especially heartache.

Albums: *Ceremonials* (2011), *Lungs* (2009)

What Florence + the Machine Says: "When you're heartbroken, you're at your most creative. You have to channel all your energies into something else to not think about it. Contentment is a creativity killer, but don't worry. I'm very capable of making myself discontented."

Explore: Both albums are on Spotify. "Shake It Out," the first single from *Ceremonials*, is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbN0nX61rls.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC



KARI JOBE

Background: This 30-year-old worship singer went to #3 on the Billboard Christian chart and #1 on the iTunes Christian chart. Jobe is a refreshing voice in a worship arena usually dominated by men and Hillsong-related women.

Albums: *Where I Find You* (2011), *Kari Jobe* (2009), *Le Canto* (2009)

What Jobe Says: "I was standing in a worship service, and I didn't really care for a song that was playing, and so I was just kind of watching. I felt the Lord saying to me very strongly, 'Does it really matter what song it is?' ... It just makes me remember we are so full of the flesh."

Explore: Listen to Jobe's songs at myspace.com/karijobemusic. An acoustic version of her hit single "We Are" is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=B07iK9uh9qY.

MOVIES

Movie: *Red Tails*

Genre: Action, Drama, War

Rating: PG-13 (for some sequences of war violence)

Synopsis: This WWII drama profiles the famed Tuskegee airmen, black pilots who posted stellar records but had to fight both German pilots *and* prejudice from their own country.

Our Take: Such films offer great opportunities to talk about prejudices and how we should address them. Plus, teaching teenagers about history is always a good thing.

Movie: *Underworld: Awakening*

Genre: Action, Horror

Rating: Not Yet Rated (Probably R)

Synopsis: After discovering that vampires and werewolves are real, humans try to wipe out both species.

Our Take: This is a decidedly nonsparkly take on vampires, with lots of guns, violence, and bloodshed. I'm not a fan of films that manipulate viewers so they root *against* humans.

For more media discussions and ideas, go to www.MinistryandMedia.com.

VIDEO GAMES



Evolution—The follow-up to the smash Xbox Live Arcade game features more motorcycle mayhem. Now, instead of being in warehouses, the crazy courses are indoors, outdoors, and anywhere you can imagine. All 60 tracks were created with the same level editor that comes with the game, so players have hours of creative potential. And there's no violence, other than crashing *hard* when you miss a jump.

Evil Hill HD Collection—The horror titles in this collection all received critical acclaim, but this is *not* something you want your kids playing. It's deeply disturbing, filled with paranoia and unspeakable monsters (including barely dressed nurses) designed to scare players physically and psychologically.

Garry & Kristen Corrigan

The Canadian Conference
of MB Churches
Quebec
<http://www.mbconf.ca>

John & Ev Wiens

MB Missions
Zaporozhve, Ukraine
<http://www.mbmission.org/connect/missionaries/wiens-john-and-evelyn>

Cecil Rast

Area: Surrey Director
Youth Unlimited
Surrey
www.gvyfc.org

Rob & Judy Griffioen

MB Mission
PHUKET Southern
Thailand
<http://www.mbmission.org/connect/missionaries/griffioen-rob-and-judy>

Brian Brown

Youth Unlimited
Module Coordinator
www.gvyfc.org

Sam Rowland

Youth Unlimited
Christian Communicator
Vancouver
www.gvyfc.org

Tim Ibbotson

Young Life
Regional Director
Lower Mainland
www.younglife.ca

Carolyn Thiessen

Child Evangelism
Fellowship
Greater Vancouver
www.cefcana.org

Julia Poole

- short term
ERRC - Educational Resources and Referrals - China
<http://errchina.com/>

Cynthia Friesen

MB Mission
Phuket, Southern
Thailand
<http://www.mbmission.org/connect/missionaries/friesen-cynthia>

Austin & Emily Malnis

TREK, MB Mission
Chachoengsao, Thailand
<http://trekae.tumblr.com/>



carolyn thiessen
Child Evangelism Fellowship
attends Surrey South Campus

CAROLYN THIESSEN

What a beautiful gift God has given us I am truly thankful for His gift... the Gift that continuously gives - with no string attached. It is totally unconditional and doesn't depend on performance!

Let me share with you some gifts I have received:

Club Gifts:

Preschool club - I did have a few children to teach but scheduling was a problem. Please pray that I will find the best time for these little ones. Oh, and I am learning a little Spanish from the cutest little guy, M~~. He will soon be on his way to Peru for a couple of months with his family.

Good News Club - I have the best children in this club! (with an attendance of 15-20) We have been learning about the attributes of God and they have loved it. Pray for D~~ who struggles with hanging out with the 'in' crowd or coming to club.

Junior Youth Club - Wow! What a change I've seen in attitudes as we have

learned about prayer. Thank You Lord! A great gift. Pray for A~~ as he fights against the pull of the world. He loves the Lord dearly and reads his Bible faithfully. However, he gets torn away sometimes.

Pray for each child in the clubs I teach, that they will accept God's gift of salvation if they haven't already. That would be the best gift I could receive!!!



Austin & Emily Malnis
with Trek MB Mission
Chachoengsao, Thailand

AUSTIN & EMILY MALNIS

It's dark out. I mean really dark. Dark and warm...

The crowd themselves have come on busses and motorcycle taxi's, on foot and on bicycles. Some stood across the road for many minutes before joining the throng. Some have had this event marked on their calendars for months. The man on stage holds the mic aloft and his words ring out sharp and true, hands raise and shouts emerge from the standing rows of people. He stares down at them, reaches out to them, sweat drips from his brow and he paces the stage. His voice rising and

falling with emotion, the crowd captivated by his every word. He finishes with a flourish and a wave of people moves to the front of the stage. He stands over them and speaks quietly, each of their mouths reciting along with him.

You'd think you were at a Pearl Jam concert in a park downtown Seattle.

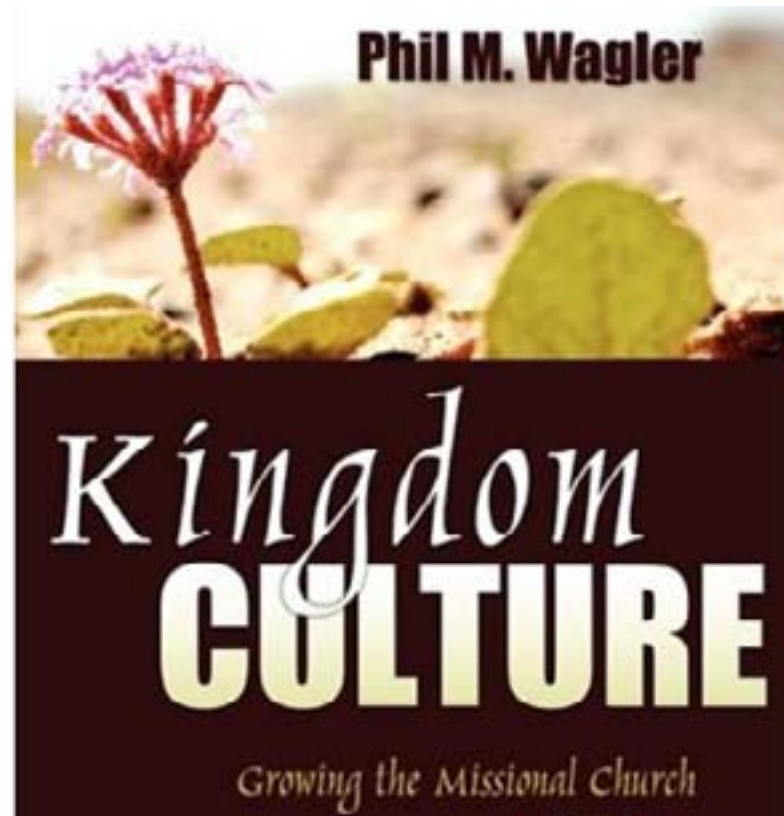
That is, if you'd missed the small group of people off to one side praying fervently for those in the crowd. This isn't a rock concert, but it is a revealing of the Rock of Ages. It's an outreach to the area around one of our churches and for many of the people standing and listening to the short pastor on stage it's the first time they've ever even heard that Jesus exists. It's mind blowing and an honour to be there at the same time.

That night, the ones that came forward decided that Christ was who they wanted to worship. All told throughout the 4 outreaches put on by churches here in the area over 60 people made that choice. That dark, warm, still, night made my heart leap with emotion in a season where giving is emphasized, these people were receiving the best gift they could ever imagine.

So. Freaking. Cool.

The information written here is an excerpt from these individuals prayer letters and/or blogs.

the finer points



An invitation to look into Pastor Phil's heart. You may purchase his book **KINGDOM CULTURE** for \$15 at the church office proceeds above printing cost go to Gracepoint Community Church

What difference could a monthly prayer meeting possibly make?

Special FUEL gathering Wed Jan 25, affirmation of Elders

6:30pm at the Surrey South Campus. Dinner (\$7). As we follow Jesus in the adventure of prayer we will meet for supper, worship through music and prayer as well as the opportunity to receive prayer. To reserve your spot for dinner please email reception@gracepoint.ca. If you can't make it for dinner, come at 7:15pm for musical worship and prayer time.

Next book club meeting Tuesday Jan 17 @ 7pm
BOOK to discuss
THE MANY LIVES AND SECRET SORROWS OF JOSEPHINE B
by Sandra Gulland

Judy Marshall's place
13112 - 66B Ave. Surrey
T : 604.572.7676

Schedule

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jan 01 Marie Isaac | Feb 05 Rob & Kandy Yakemchuck |
| Jan 08 Outreach Opportunity | Feb 12 Dane & Trish Jones |
| Jan 15 Adrienne Alkema | Feb 19 Margaret Legge |
| Jan 22 Brigitte Bourassa | Feb 26 Fred & Pat Wiens |
| Jan 29 Joe Milankovics | |

look out point



walk thru the Bible with us
When: Saturday Jan 21, 2012
9am - 2pm
Where: Gracepoint Surrey South Campus
3487 King George Blvd.
Register with Danica by calling the office or by emailing her danica@gracepoint.ca
Cost: \$40 per person
\$125 max per family
Childcare is provided for children grade 1 and younger

Men needed for an emergency church set up team at Surrey South Campus. For more information contact Al Young via email at deafie@rogers.blackberry.net.

CONFESSION OF FAITH
We believe in God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created and sustains the universe. The eternal purpose of God the Father is to create a people who will bring glory to God forever. God alone is worthy of worship.

We believe that God became human in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore the world because humans have rejected God in disobedience. Jesus taught and modeled the way of God's kingdom. He died on the cross, making it possible for us to accept a renewed relationship with God. He rose from the dead, broke the power of sin and death, and frees us to live in obedience to God's will.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit invites all people to be reconciled with God and to join the global family of faith. Believers confess their faith, are baptized, and join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and guided by the Bible, members of the church seek to live as followers of Christ and invite others to experience this new life.



'Creation of Sun and Moon' BY MICHELANGELO
Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, Rome. c1508 - 1512

| | |
|---|--|
| service times & locations | office information |
| SURREY SOUTH CAMPUS 3487 King George Blvd. Sunday Service Time: 9am | 3487 King George Blvd. Surrey, BC V4P 1B7 T. 604.538.1825 F. 604.538.6139 |
| BELL CENTRE CAMPUS 6250 144th St. Surrey Sunday Service Time: 10:30am | Office hours: M, Tu, Th, Fri 8:30 - 4:30 W. 8:30 - 2:30 |
| www.gracepoint.ca | |

Gracepoint is an evangelical church affiliated with the Mennonite Brethren Conference of Churches, but people of all backgrounds and denominations - or lack thereof - are welcome here

At Gracepoint you'll hear a lot about:

LifeGroups. That's because no matter how many campuses we have or how many people come to our weekend services, it's important that you always have the opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and make life-long friendships. The list below is a current list of life groups. If you are interested in joining a life group please contact steve@gracepoint.ca or jeff@gracepoint.ca. If you would like your life group to be added to the list please email Danica danica@gracepoint.ca.



GENERAL MIXED

arnold & sharon machel
meet weekly | thursday

cal & sonja boomer
meet weekly | wednesday
delta

ernie & marie isaac
meet every other week | sunday
fleetwood

john & lois penner
meet every other week | wednesday
cloverdale

phil & jen wagler
meet weekly | saturday
surrey | langley

kevin & theresa wiebe
meet weekly | thursday
panorama ridge

gregg & tracy baker
meet 1st & 3rd wednesdays | each month
north delta

jeremy & cathy wilson
every other friday | each month
north delta

carey & cheryl vandenbergh
meet every two weeks | friday
south surrey

YOUNG CHILDREN

steve & kim savage
meet every two weeks | tuesday
panorama ridge

YOUNG CHILDREN - Pre-teens | Teenagers

ryan zindler
meet every two weeks | wednesday
delta

ADULT CHILDREN | EMPTY NESTERS

allan & beverly moffat
meet every two weeks | sunday
south surrey

walt & charlotte epp
meet weekly | wednesday
north delta

david & liz raison
meet weekly | tuesday
north delta

SINGLES

melanie kartye
meet weekly | thursday
newton

WOMEN - ALL AGES

alison boettcher
meet weekly | tuesday
south surrey

WOMEN 'LIFE AFTER DIVORCE'

kathie edwards
meet 3rd friday | each month
various locations

YOUNG MARRIED

nathan & miranda caleb
steven & sarah cook
meet weekly | thursday
various locations

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 JANUARY 1 2012 go together one service one location one celebration 10:30 Surrey South Campus | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9AM WORSHIP SSO CAMPUS 10:30AM BELL CAMPUS no Sunday Jam FREEDOM SESSION | 9 GEMS | 10 NO SR HIGH YOUTH | 11 ascend - young adults MEN'S FLOOR HOCKEY | 12 NO JR HIGH YOUTH | 13 Youth Winter Gala | 14 |
| 15 9AM WORSHIP SSO CAMPUS 10:30AM BELL CAMPUS Sunday Jam FREEDOM SESSION | 16 GEMS | 17 women's book club SR HIGH YOUTH | 18 ascend - young adults MEN'S FLOOR HOCKEY | 19 WORSHIP ARTS RETREAT JR HIGH YOUTH | 20 WORSHIP ARTS RETREAT | 21 WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE NEW TESTA- MENT WORSHIP ARTS RETREAT |
| 22 9AM WORSHIP SSO CAMPUS 10:30AM BELL CAMPUS BELL LUNCH FREEDOM SESSION | 23 GEMS | 24 SR HIGH YOUTH | 25 FUEL NO FLOOR HOCKEY | 26 JR HIGH YOUTH | 27 missions fest | 28 missions fest |
| 29 9AM WORSHIP SSO CAMPUS 10:30AM BELL CAMPUS FREEDOM SESSION | 30 GEMS | 31 SR HIGH YOUTH | | | | |

Please note some although all events listed here were current at the time of printing specific events are subject to change. Please confirm event with it's leader for final date confirmation.

point people . our elder nominees

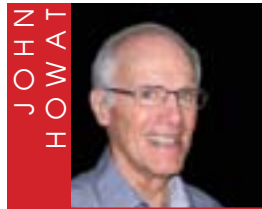
point people . our elder nominees



JEFF EDWARDS
1 YEAR TERM
 I have been part of our church for the last 16 years. My wife Gail and I have had the joy to see our daughters Abbey and Scarlett come to faith at Gracepoint and our entire family has been involved in various ways over the years. I served in Worship Arts as a team leader for almost a decade and served a three-year term on the Leadership Team a few years back. My job requires frequent travel, making regular involvement a challenge, but I am excited to commit to serving in this capacity for a one-year term.



RON MARSHALL
1 YEAR TERM
 I have been a member of Gracepoint Community Church for 17 years and have been on the leadership team for over ten years. I have worked as a banjo teacher and player, pizza cook, served two years in the US Army, worked as a craps (dice) dealer in Reno NV, an aerial survey photographer and darkroom technician, and in sales. I have a Master of Divinity in pastoral studies and have served as an associate and lead pastor. I currently own a business and enjoy spending time with my three children and two amazing grandkids.



JOHN HOWAT
2 YEAR TERM
 At the age of 8 years I asked Christ into my heart and about one year later was baptized.

 YFC introduced me to Dorothy. We were married in 1954. We have a daughter, two sons, and eight grand-children.

 I became an electrician and after 20 years in that trade, we moved to Toronto to manage a building maintenance operation for 3 years. World Vision then employed me and I became the Canadian western director. In 1986 we moved to Surrey and began attending Peace Arch Fellowship. We helped to launch the Sunday Night Community Dinner and I was active on the Elders board.



CHAD KOEHN
3 YEAR TERM
 I was born and raised in a loving Christian home, and have attended MB churches all of my life. I accepted Christ around the age of 5, and took the step of baptism when I was 15. After spending a year in Australia attending Capernwray Bible school, I pursued an education in electromechanical engineering. That education got me the job that I still have today. I've been with the same company for over 16 years, and currently manage the mechanical engineering group. I married my wife Maria 11 years ago, and we've been attending Gracepoint/Panorama Community Church for 21 years now.



DIANA MARK
3 YEAR TERM
 I grew up in Victoria, and our family attended the United Church. I loved Jesus from a young age. Family difficulties (one of those understatement in life) meant that growing up a healthy person was a huge challenge. At 16 I committed my life to Christ.

 In my early 20s I headed to the US to attend Bible college. Two years of life focusing on the Bible and prayer built some real depth in my life and my relationship with Christ.

 I moved to Vancouver and met my husband David at Burnaby Christian Fellowship. We became involved in pre-marital counseling and marriage enrichment. One of our life verses is in Genesis 12, where God blesses Abraham in order that he may be a blessing to others.
 I also served on the Board of Heritage Christian School for 3 years. We joined Panorama/Gracepoint in 2000 so our kids could build relationships with other young Christians in our area. David & I have 3 awesome kids: Chris (25), Kevin (22) and Stephanie (20). We're really proud of them, particularly because they all love God.

Career-wise, I am President of Greystone Corporate Services, and we provide corporate services to two public mining companies in downtown Vancouver.

For the past few months I have sensed a strong, freshening wind of God's Spirit at Gracepoint. I believe that He is calling us closer to Him that we may serve His kingdom more fully, and that we'll see that worked out over the days and months ahead.



CECIL RAST
2 YEAR TERM
 I was born in a 1st nations village in northern BC. My parents were teachers and missionaries to the people there. I felt called into ministry shortly after finishing high school, and after bible school joined Youth for Christ. 25 years later, I am now service as the Surrey area director and I still love working with kids who are marginalized. I started coming to panorama when it was 3 years old and still met in the elementary school. For me, the experience was a breath of fresh air, and I have been coming to Gracepoint ever since.



ARCHIE JOHNSON
3 YEAR TERM
 I am an audit partner with the professional accounting firm KPMG LLP and the Canadian National industry leader for KPMG's Not for Profit and Public Sector practice. I have been with KPMG for 32 years. I am a past president of the Surrey Board of Trade and past chair of the Surrey Board of Trade's Governors' Council. I am a life member of the Government Finance Officers Association of BC ("GFOA") and served 10 years as a member of the GFOA's board of directors. I am also a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC and chair of the Institute's public sector accounting forum.

 I am married to Susan and we have 3 children: Bobby (24) attending medical school in California, Peter (21) attending an engineering undergraduate program at SFU, and Tessa (19) apprenticing as a baker.

 I became a Christian while in high school through the Young Life program. Over the years I served as a volunteer Young Life Leader, volunteer youth leader, Home Group Program Coordinator Home Group leader, and served on Panorama's Leadership team for 5 years. My wife and I went to Peace Portal Alliance approximately 10 years ago when we moved to South Surrey. We returned to Gracepoint approximately 2 years ago. I have also served on the board of directors of the Burnaby Christian Community Counseling Group. I have a passion for discipleship, teaching and mentoring.



KIM SAVAGE
3 YEAR TERM
 I'm my husband's wife; my two sons' mother; a good friend; at work, a "PR girl" through and through; but most of all a woman who is blessed to live a redeemed life through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have walked through dark times and had the benefit to enjoy the light and hope only found in Jesus. It's probably why I have such a passion for people to develop a faith that makes a difference in their homes, their jobs and their communities - to get unstuck from where they have been and get excited about where they are going and the difference only their life can make. Gracepoint (and before that Panorama) has been home since 1993 and it would be a privilege to serve on team that will help shape our next chapter as a church community and see what God will purpose for us.



JEREMY WILSON
3 YEAR TERM
 I was raised in a Christian home in New Zealand and accepted Christ as Lord at the age of 13 at a Baptist church Easter camp. At university my spiritual growth was accelerated by participation in Navigators. Early in my engineering post-doctorate years I returned to a student dorm to encourage the younger Christians in residence. I married Cathy in 1987 and immigrated to Canada that same year to pursue my career in software engineering, with skiing Whistler and exploring the great outdoors of BC as ulterior motives. With the arrival of our first child, Grace, and a move to Newton, Cathy and I became members of the fledgling Panorama Community Church. Sons Jonathan and Daniel soon followed, and Cathy served on staff with Kids Unlimited for several years. We now live in North Delta, co-leading a life group with Paul and Jackie Buckley. My desire is to see Gracepoint stay focused on the basics of our wonderful faith as a church family, and to see our church culture reinvigorated, especially for our children and youth.

We present these individuals for your prayerful consideration, asking that you respond with words of affirmation or concern (1 Timothy 5:17-19) by January 22 to the steering team directly by contacting Phil Walger - phil@gracepoint.ca or 604.538.1825 ext.208. The steering team will carefully weigh all that is shared in confidence and, following this process, move to affirm and commission our elders to lead. Affirmation of our leaders will be at our FUEL gathering Wed Jan 25, 2012

point people . our staff



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COME AS YOU ARE
BE MOVED BY GRACE

Welcome

Chris, Sheena, and Madelyn Reitmayer
our new Lead Student Ministries Pastor!

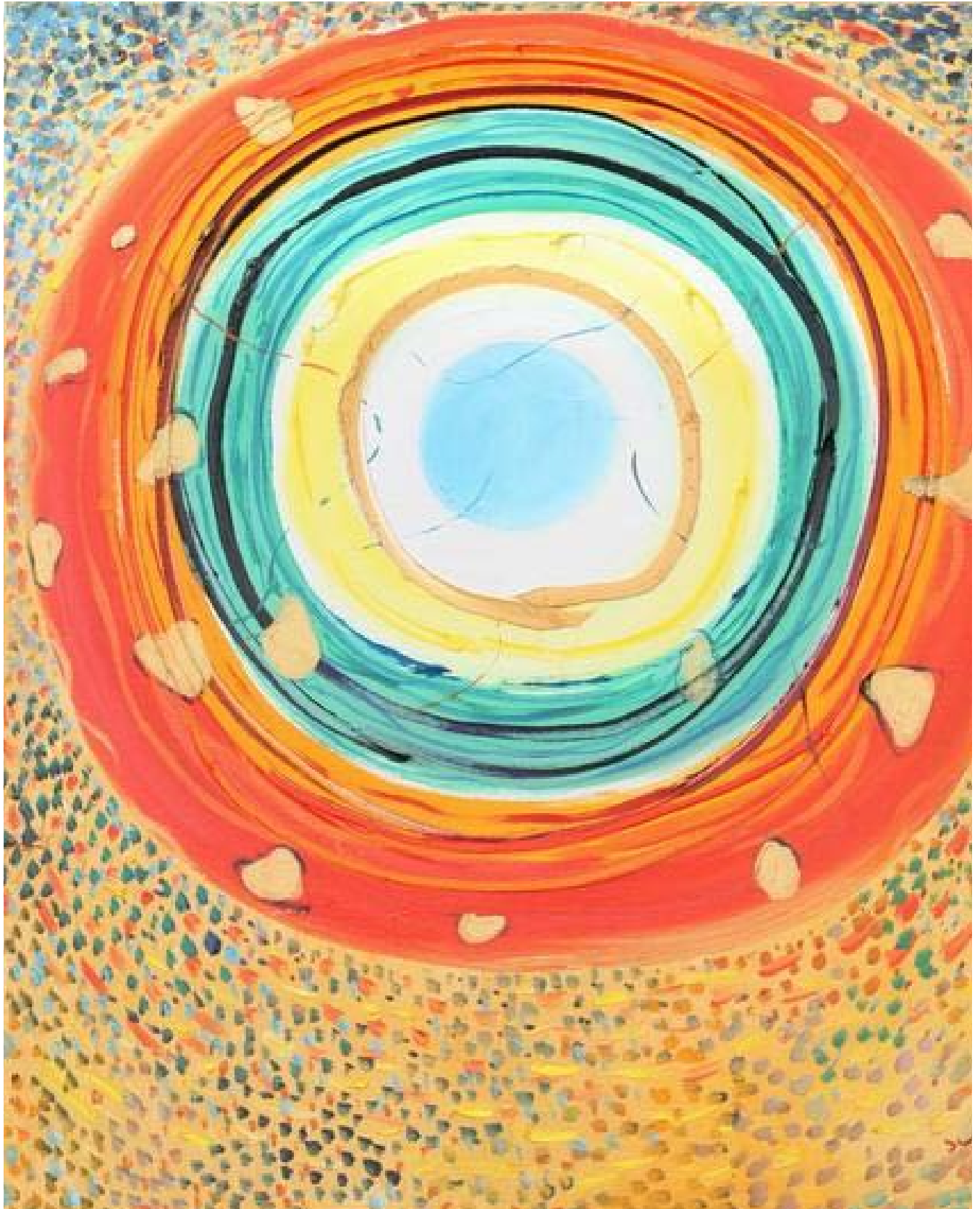
I grew up

in a household with a loving and supportive family that held to many Christian values but never talked much about God. The idea of God was interwoven through much of my upbringing, but it was never a central part of our family dynamic. At the age of 15, one of my closest friends began attending the youth group at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church after our other friend invited him to attend. Not long after he began attending he invited me out as well. With some reluctance I eventually attended a youth night in March of 1998, and though I felt very confused and uncomfortable, something within me connected. Before long, I was counting down the days until the next youth night. That summer, my friend and I attended teen camp at Green Bay Bible Camp where I met not only one of my life long best friends, but also a youth pastor from my church back home who would have a significant impact on the early part of my Christian journey. In a small group one night in early September of 1998, I made a conscious decision to follow Christ. Throughout my high school career I had great friends who constantly challenged me in my journey with God. I was also very fortunate to have great youth leaders and a youth pastor who was available and caring. Perhaps the greatest impact my youth pastor had on me was his final challenge to me as he was leaving the church; he challenged me to consider becoming a youth leader after I graduated. Admittedly at the time I had no interest in teenagers or working with youth, but out of my deep respect for him I decided to at least give it a try. It was during this time that God broke my heart for teenagers and opened my eyes to gifts that I never knew I had. After three years of praying through the frustrations I finally began my formal biblical education at Trinity Western University with my parent's blessing. During this period I stepped into an intern position with the youth at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, spent three challenging summers at different summer camps, and went back to school and began working towards my Master of Divinity at Regent College in order to strengthen my theological education. Over the past ten years, since I first started working with youth at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, there have been many challenges to overcome in pursuit to follow God's call on my life, but God has always been right there by my side encouraging me to keep going. In my time since becoming a Christian over thirteen years ago, I always remember that it was because people gave their time that I am the Christian I am today and that encourages me to try to do the same for each and every youth and person I encounter.



point people . introducing...

Behold! I am making all things new!



'Breath of Creation' by Pratuang Emjaroen
oil on canvas