



REGULAR WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Sundays at 10:30 AM

3rd floor Banquet Hall at the Langley Events Centre

Sunday, Dec 27—Willoughby Community Christmas
JRCC is partnering with six other churches in Willoughby to host a united Christmas event here at the LEC on Sunday, Dec 27. The main gathering will feature the singing of carols, the reading of the Christmas story, and reflections on the heart of the season. Children from birth to age 3 can participate in the nursery which will be located in the Rec Centre. Children from age 4 to grade 2 can play in our Kids' Fun Zone (full of bouncy castles and craft stations) which will be setup in the West Gym.

Sunday, Jan 3—*Communitas*

Our first Sunday of the New Year will be dedicated to giving our gratitude to God and sharing with each other our plans for growth in the upcoming year. We call this gathering "*Communitas*," which is a Latin word that means the very spirit of community. Our purpose for the morning is to share in the spirit of thankfulness for all that God has done and to look ahead with anticipation for ways that we can grow in love and grace. Each of us will have the opportunity to share publicly - perhaps through a story, photograph, craft, or song—think of it as a visual for "Show & Tell"—so please come prepared to verbalize your thoughts and showcase your art on January 3. Please note that because *Communitas* is a family friendly event, older children will remain with their parents in the main gathering. Children who are age 3 - grade 1 can participate in Sunday Cinema and the nursery will be available for toddlers and babies who are under 3 years of age.



Thursday, Jan 7th—Men's Gym Night

Join other men from Jericho Ridge for a game of indoor soccer from 7:00-9:00 PM on Jan 7. We'll be playing in the gym at Blacklock Elementary School (5100 206th St). Please bring \$5 to offset the rental costs. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Keith.

Year End Notes for our Regular Attendees:

Don't forget that you can give online to JRCC through your financial institution. Full details are available on our website. Donations for 2009 must be either postmarked or in the office by December 31. If you wish to drop it off, the office will be open on Thursday, Dec 31 (the office is closed Dec 25-30 and Jan 1).

For more information about any of these programs or about our church please call us at 604-629-7804, email at office@jerichoridge.com, or visit our website at www.jerichoridge.com.



Christmas Eve 2009



**"We saw him with our own eyes
and touched him with our own hands.
He is the Word of life.
This one who is life itself was revealed to us,
and we have seen him.
And now we testify and proclaim to you
that he is the one who is eternal life."**

1 John 1:1-2

"The *Terroir* of Christmas"

*Devotional Thoughts
for Christmas Eve
from Pastor Brad*

Before I was a pastor, I worked in the viticulture industry (snobby vineyard-talk for winery tours and tastings for the non-oenophiles amongst us). One of the things you are required to learn in that sector is a bit of passable French because this is the language of origins when it comes to all things grape. And similar to the culinary world, many of these terms are still in wide usage today. This precipitated my first encounter with the concept of "*terroir*," a French word which is notoriously difficult to translate (aren't they all!?).

Essentially, *terroir* means that a good wine has a "somewhereness." In his book, *So Beautiful*, Leonard Sweet puts it this way: "Wine with *terroir* has an unmistakable signature, an arrhythmic personality that is a product of climate, soil, topography, and human interactions. No one wants a wine with no *terroir*, no somewhereness. No one wants a disincarnate wine. Similarly a faith with no *terroir* is a faith without somewhereness, a faith with no domestic vintage or memorable value." (154).

The narrative of Christmas is, in many ways, the ultimate expression of *terroir*. The Bible speaks clearly and frequently about Jesus' incarnation—the truth that God broke into time, space, and geography some 2,000 years ago with the single purpose of taking up residence amongst us in order to save us. Because like a good vintner, God understands that incarnating flavours everything.

Listen to the words of one of the eye-witnesses of the incarnation as it echoes across the centuries: "*So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.*" (John 1:14 NLT)

Tonight and tomorrow, Christians around the globe will celebrate the miraculous moment when God Himself came to earth to show us what love was like and to bring light and life to our world, because Christmas is God's *terroir*, the ultimate expression of His "somewhereness," the ultimate demonstration of His love for you and me. Won't you join me in welcoming Him?

Brad



Order of Worship

Welcome

Pastor Keith Reed

Call to Worship

Video—"We are Here"

Songs of Celebration & Hope

Jared Crossley & Team

Scripture Reading

Children's Story

What God Wants for Christmas

Christmas Reflections

"The *Terroir* of Christmas"
Pastor Brad Sumner

Special Music: "Welcome to Our World"

Ruth Ellen Crossley & Kristen Bylenga

Songs of Reflection & Invitation

Jared Crossley & Team



FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN:

This evening's gathering is a family-friendly event. Please note that childcare will not be provided, but children's toys will be setup in a dedicated area for children 24 months and younger and their parents. Goodie-bags will also be given out to the kids. Full children's programming (birth to Grade 4) is available during our regular Sunday morning gatherings beginning Jan 10.