

Eastview Link

A Christmas Tale Told to Perfection!



Caught in the (first) act: the cast of A Christmas Tale.

For the first time in Eastview history, five Christmas Eve services were held, with a total attendance of approximately 1,700 people. The Christmas story was presented as a play, *A Christmas Tale*, performed by a cast of seven actors in the spirit of a traveling troupe who directly addressed the audience. In another time, this was a common way for people to spread God's Word, by traveling from town to town and portraying a story to anyone who would listen.

The presentation was an eye-catching and ear-pleasing multimedia experience. Incorporated into the evening was an amazing variety of songs and music including soloists, a trio, a quartet, backup singers, a choir, and a group of musicians. Special lighting effects and video presentations enhanced the musical numbers.

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The Eastview Link team:
Cherie Dittberner, Terrance Klassen,
Mary Wachniak, and Philip Wiebe
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Eastview
COMMUNITY CHURCH

NYC'04

NYC'04 was a Conference for High School students that took place in Toronto during the Christmas break. It seemed to go by fast, considering all the planning that went into it. We, the Sr. High group of Eastview, would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers, your concern, and your financial help.

Some big highlights of the week were certainly the worship times together. Specifically, there was an evening worship concert where many of our group met God "face to face." As a leader that's all you can pray and hope for, and for me, I could have gone home after seeing our students in intense worship that night.

But that's not all: workshops were held where

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Worship Culture!

Held in an intimate setting, this contemplative night of praise and worship is designed to challenge and inspire us to grow deeper in our relationship with God. Upcoming in February – a focus on prayer life.

Future Dates:

Feb 19

no March event (focus: Easter)

April 16

May 14

****Childcare is provided for these events.**

Due to the interest expressed by young families, these events will be held earlier, with praise and worship beginning at 6:30.

~Malynda Zacharias

From the Library...

As many of you already know, we are currently in the process of computerizing the Library – no more cards and stamps – only computers and bar code labels. Everything is being entered into a library computer system called Resource Mate. For your information, there are currently over 2,400 books, 200 videos and 200 CD's in the Eastview library, which includes resource material.

Once the computerization process is complete you won't need a library card; we have already entered all your names (including your children's names) into our computer database. This means if you are looking for a book, a topic, an author, a song, or a singer we can tell you right away if we have it. Eventually you will be able to do your own searches on-line through the Eastview website.

When the Library reopens, you will be able to bring any item you wish to take out to the book counter, where we will scan the bar code and give you a printout of the items you currently have on loan, and when they are due.

~Julie Hiebert

Personal Link

Introducing you to people in ministry around Eastview

Paul Lester

Church Council Member

Paul and Eva have been married 25 years, and have three girls, Nicole (19), Jacqueline (17), and Danielle (15). After finishing high school, Paul worked with the RCMP for three years. Then as he began his career in finance, over the course of 14 years he attended night school at the University of Manitoba, and then the University of Saskatchewan receiving his Economics degree, which led to him receiving his CFP and FMA professional designations.



Over the years, Paul worked for several banks where he started in a management trainee program, progressed through numerous levels of management, became Bank Manager, was the Head of Public Relations, and currently specializes in Wealth Management at CIBC.

Ten years ago, after having transferred back to Winnipeg from Saskatoon, Nicole (Paul's daughter) was invited to Girls' Club by Brittany Siemens. Then Brittany invited Nicole to come to church one Sunday. Paul took Nicole, where they were introduced to Reg and Laurie Siemens, and have been close friends since. At first Paul was surprised to learn that Eastview was a Mennonite church. He clearly remembered the message that day being about grace. That marked the beginning of their adventure at Eastview.

As part of ministry, Paul conducted four Alpha courses; Paul and Eva have been Care Group Leaders for seven years and continue to do so today. Paul sat on the Design Team Committee for a few years, was involved in drama, and currently sits on Church Council.

Paul's favourite bible verse is Jeremiah 31:33-34, "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." His favourite song is *Above All* by Paul Baloche and Lenny LeBlanc. He enjoys anything to do with the outdoors, such as hunting, fishing, cycling, skiing, or training for a triathlon. It's at these times that he feels closest to God. Paul also enjoys reading. Some good books that he's read are *Man in a Mirror*, by Patrick Morley, *Trophy Deer Hunting* by Delremple, and all of Lee Stroebel's books.

~Mary Wachniak

The Best Dinner Theatre Ever

A dinner theatre, titled *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, was held over three evenings at the beginning of December, bringing in a total of 677 people. A great time was had by all who attended and participated – from being served/serving a wonderful gourmet meal, to being serenaded by a beautiful choir, to sitting in a festively transformed gymnasium, to being entertained with a 4-act play by a group of talented actors.

The play centered around a church Christmas pageant that seems to be doomed to fail when the Herdmans, “the worst kids in the history of the world,” decide that they would like to participate by playing the principal characters in the traditional Christmas story. To further complicate matters, the usual pageant director is in the hospital, and an unassuming mother of two is roped into the unenviable task of making this the “best Christmas pageant ever.”

It’s amazing how much work and people it takes to organize such an event. Preparation began in October. Approximately 150 people gave of their time, helping in the following areas: drama, choir,

props/set changing, staging, technical, ticket sales, kitchen preparation/cooking, serving, table setting, decorating, clean up, parking, and greeting. 1 Peter 4: 10 says, “God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.” We are blessed to have been able to provide such an outreach event for our community.

Lil Koop, the director of the theatre portion of the evening, also rewrote the existing play by the same name to fit Eastview’s purposes. She had this to say: “The actors’ response and their willingness to work hard using their God-given gifts, which they freely shared with us all, were an inspiration and joy for me to observe. They truly were able to express the real meaning of Christmas! I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.”

It was a true honour for me to play Grace in the dinner theatre production. NOW PUT THE DOLL BACK IN THE MANGER ... I mean ... Bless all of you who were involved, and who brought friends, families, and neighbours to hear the Christmas story.

~Mary Wachniak

At left, the cast of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever need only stand aside and watch as Mary Wachniak (back row, centre) and Regina Dyck (behind the manger) steal the scene.

At right, Leroy Herdman (also known as Greg Schroeder) enjoys some of the delicious food.



Girls Thrive at Girls Alive

Girls Alive is an exciting and unique program geared specifically for girls. The program allows women of faith to come alongside young girls and be positive role models in their spiritual development. The relationship that can develop between the women who choose to lead, and the girls attending the program, can affect the lives of the women and girls for eternity.

The girls are introduced to biblical concepts through skits, discussion, real-life stories, and examples of godly women. Scriptural truths based on the lives of women of today illustrate how God's Word applies to our daily living. Sessions are filled with activities aimed at girls building solid relationships with God, their peers, and the

women who guide and mentor them.

We also enjoy other activities such as the Sleepover planned for January 28-29/05, as well as making crafts, gym time, bowling, swimming, and many more. Last year we visited Donwood Manor and presented the residents with a program of singing, Bible reading and prayer. We also made Easter crafts for the residents to put on their fridge to remind them that Jesus died for all of us.

Girls Alive begins and ends each week with an emphasis on drawing all girls in, regardless of their background or faith. It's a great program. Come join us starting Wednesday, January 19, from 7:00-8:30 pm.

~Shirley Penner

A Word from Council

As we discussed the recommendation of purchasing new property at our last membership meeting, two major questions were present in many people's minds.

1. Are we better off paying significantly more than the appraised value to purchase neighbouring land and adding on to our existing building?
2. How marketable is our existing facility and would we receive reasonable resale value when the time comes to sell it?

Throughout this somewhat long and winding process of trying to solve our space limitations, Council has tried to be diligent in prayerfully pursuing various options and as we've walked down various paths, we have clearly sensed God opening and closing

certain doors.

We find ourselves once again humbled and in awe how God is seemingly clearing the way to move forward by providing clear answers to both of these questions.

1. Through direct consultation with our neighbouring landowner, we were told that the property was not for sale (at any price) and that they wanted to pursue developing it in its entirety.
2. Unsolicited, we have received a formal offer from Rowandale Baptist Church to purchase our existing property and buildings.

Property & Finance as well as Council have had numerous meetings to discuss and research

the details and implications of the offer to purchase our building. Any acceptance will be conditional on subsequent congregational approval. We are excited about these developments and have scheduled a congregational meeting for January 30 at 7:00 pm to discuss this offer, and will also bring forward additional information on the 50-acre property that we have a conditionally-accepted offer on. An agenda and further information will be made available prior to this meeting.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting. We would also ask for your continued prayers as we seek to align ourselves with God's will for His church.

~Church Council

...A Christmas Tale *cont'd from page 1*

Most stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. However, on Christmas Eve we were shown the following:

- the beginning, where God created the heavens and the earth – with US on His mind;
- the middle, where the human race longed to see God personally; and
- the end (or so we thought), where Jesus was born.

This ending; however, leads to other significant parts of the story – Jesus' death and rebirth which lead to OUR lives. So there isn't, in fact, a fixed ending to this story. We each must choose our own ending. Where will the Jesus of Christmas end up for you? Will He remain just a baby in a manger, or will He be a personal God in your life? How will you end the story?

Many people were touched by the service. Comments included:

"The service had great spirit. It was a great message portrayed in a contemporary way."

"I felt overwhelming tears of joy over the warmth of the music."

"The drama was well acted and very attention-grabbing, and the message was very clear."

I pray that Christ would be in each of your hearts this year.

~Mary Wachniak



Above: The choir assists in telling the story.

Below: The band practices hard to make sure they are right on cue at the performances.



lol05 - what's that?

You'll forgive Thom Dick if he seems a little more, how shall we say, "preoccupied" than usual. You see, Eastview's junior high ministry is one of the groups planning an amazing conference geared for students in Grades 6-9, January 28-29, at Immanuel Pentecostal Church.

The conference derives its name from the popular internet chat abbreviation for "laugh out loud." A conference that draws its name from one of the most defining current cultural terms for fun had better live up to its name, and all indications say that lol05 will.

If you want the astonishing details (oh the drama), check out www.lol05.com. Check this website regularly for updates about the conference. There will be comedy, music, games, and fun, but especially a chance to experience Jesus in new and extraordinary ways.

It's going to be a lot of fun. You don't want to miss it! There is still plenty of time to sign up. The cost of the conference is now \$75. The best way to sign up is through your church youth group. If you aren't part of one yet, e-mail Thom to get connected. ~Thom Dick

...NYC'04 cont'd from page 1

many of our students attended, only to continue to discuss into the wee hours of the morning what they'd heard; riding the subway – you never really appreciate something like that until you realize how cool it is, and the fact that we don't have one; going up the CN Tower. From someone who is deathly afraid of heights... I still consider this a highlight of our adventure, as it built tremendous community in the traveling to and from this magnificent sight, as well as the camaraderie between those who love (and don't love) heights.

All in all, I would rate this adventure really high. There were things that I absolutely loved: worship, the teaching, the community, the late night talks, the BIG pizza, talking to our students about their relationship with God... and yes, sure there were things I was disappointed in, but I was certainly not disappointed in our group! They conducted

themselves with respect, dignity and class. No problems at all... Thanks guys!

To our Eastview family – thank you for all your support – to know you were behind us, praying for us and encouraging us really meant a lot, and continues to. Please don't stop.
~Steve Dick



The Eastview Sr. High youth can barely contain their enthusiasm as they head to Toronto.

Friends Meeting Over Football

Happy New Year to all from Men's Ministry! The last event our Men's Ministry hosted was the Grey Cup game between B.C. and Toronto. With the help of many, the Eastview gym was ready for the fans. At approximately 4:00 pm the City Transit bus pulled up to the south entrance and 50 guests from the following missions arrived: Forward House, Siloam Mission, Barnabas House, Union Gospel, and Teen Challenge. Our Lord blessed the entire evening with fun and fellowship and kept us all safe. Many had second and third helpings of the homemade chili and there was enough left over for each ministry to take back. Again, thank you to everyone who helped prepare the food and served God's children with their hearts (Matt. 25: 40).



Fans arrive by the chartered bus-load for the big game on Grey Cup Sunday!

In other men's ministry news, our brother Tom Neufeld and his son Mark safely arrived in South Africa. They have been united with their family and have had the opportunity to share Jesus with them. Please keep them in your prayers for protection, and that the Holy Spirit works through them to change hearts. We look forward to the stories upon their return to Canada.

Men, mark your calendars with these upcoming events:
Jan. 21-22: Promise Keepers "Date Night with Dad" in Wpg. & Steinbach (see bulletin boards).
Feb. 15: Valentine's Candlelight Dinner at Eastview (more details to follow).

Mar. 4-5: Promise Keepers National Conference "Every Man's Challenge" – Church of the Rock.
Spring 2005: Men's Ministry Retreat (more details to follow).
~Greg Payne

Care Groups - A Place to Belong

Although the Christmas holiday season is over, the popular Christmas song “There’s no place like home for the holidays” keeps lingering in my mind. Being home for the holidays is a major priority for many families because it is a place to belong – it’s a place where in spite of all our flaws and shortcomings, we know we are loved and accepted by the ones who know us best.

Eastview Community Church is committed to connecting people to our community. In a church of our size, it can be quite easy to appear to blend in with the crowd but in our hearts, we may not feel that we belong. A Care Group is a small group of 10-12 people who become your “family” within the larger church family. It’s a place where you can feel and experience God’s love through others – in essence; it is a place to belong. A Care Group Connection Lunch will be held on Sunday, January 16 after the 11:00 am service in the Fireside Room. If you want to know more about Care Groups, or connect with a Care Group, here is a chance for you and your family to have a free lunch with Care Group leaders. Come and let us help you get connected with our church family.

Let this be your first step on your journey to find your way “home” where you belong.

A heartfelt thanks goes to all the organizers and those who attended the Eastview Challenge Night in September 2004. It was truly a fun night as Care Groups were challenged to respond to questions in a variety of categories. The costumes and table designs were very creative and well done. It was truly great being a part of the “family of Care Groups” at Eastview.

A special thank you is sent to everyone who is involved in the Care Group Ministry. It is because of your dedication and commitment that this ministry is successful and enables many to feel a sense of belonging.

Training sessions for Care Group leaders will be held Sunday, January 23 and repeated Sunday, January 30 at 11:00 am in Room 108 – right across from the kitchen. The topic for the month of January is “Birthing New Groups.” Two training sessions are also scheduled for April 17 and 24 on the topic of “Resolving Conflicts that Arise in Care Groups.” Our annual Care Group Leader’s breakfast will be held in March with more details to follow.

~Bob & Sharon Boychuk

Sunday Morning Sneak Previews

Sunday Morning Services:

New Song Resource List

Over the next couple of months we will be including some new songs in our song sets. We would like to provide you with titles so you are able to find copies for your listening pleasure during the week. You may also wish to check with our on-site library!

Song Title	Artist: CD
Sweeter	Lakewood Live: Cover the Earth
Life of Praise	Casting Crowns
Made Me Glad	Hillsong: Blessed
Agnus Dei	M.W. Smith: Worship
Indescribable	Chris Tomlin: Arriving

Good Friday Service

A pre-Easter event entitled “Come to the Cross.” A series of monologues will be presented that describe people coming to the cross, grappling with the significance of the cross and Christ’s sacrifice. Other elements include choral and congregational singing, and communion.

Easter Sunday Service: A Community-Wide Event

A production titled “The Bridge”, wherein the gospel is creatively and clearly explained. The bridge represents how Christ covered the gap between God and the human race. People show their willingness to receive this gift from Christ Jesus by walking across an actual bridge onstage. Music, drama, video, and a pastor’s message will be interspersed throughout.

~Malynda Zacharias

New Year's New Members

The weather may have been cold and stormy on New Year's Eve, but inside Eastview many warm hearts gathered to witness the baptism of four new members. Pictured at right are: Jr. High Pastor Thom Dick, Michael Hamm, Charlene Hare, Faith Dieleman, Cherie Dittberner, Pastor Lorne Pearson, and Debbie and Ward Harris (who joined by transfer). A warm welcome to all new members!



The evening included a Faith Community service, with everyone sharing communion. What a glorious way to end 2004 and begin 2005. Happy New Year and bless you all!
~Cherie Dittberner

A Call to Prayer

The year 2005 has been deemed as the Year of Prayer. For information regarding related events in our city and abroad, check out www.celebration2005.ca. I believe in light of all that has happened, this declaration couldn't have been more timely.

As we begin a new year, I wanted to be sensitive to those who have suffered tremendous loss and heartache, those battling cancer in our midst, and those whose pain only God knows. Yet, despite all this, I couldn't ignore writing about one of the world's deadliest tsunamis and the suffering of those left in its aftermath. We must gather together as a house of prayer and pray on the behalf of those in need. (Isaiah 56:7)

Sheila Walsh, a "Woman of Faith" speaker, explains it this way:

"Some, may ask, 'If God is both good and powerful, why would He allow terrible things to happen?' ... This very question has been asked through pain since Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden.

"There are no easy answers. We live in a world that long ago wrenched itself from the loving care of our Father, determined to sample from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and now we daily taste both.

"What we do know to be true that even in the center of such catastrophe, God is there. He weeps with those who weep and sends His children to bring

messages of hope and comfort."

Among the countries hit, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India were struck the hardest by this disaster. Let us unite together in prayer for the many needs of those left in the aftermath of the tsunami. There are many needs and many things to pray for.

One of the greatest physical needs, both immediate and long term, will be clean drinking water.

We need to pray for the children. UNICEF estimates 50,000 children are among the dead, and tens of thousands more are orphaned. Those left behind are subject to criminal gangs that are roaming in their midst. We must pray for their protection and provision under the care of their Heavenly Father.

It is important to note that we must pray against corruption and temptation in the midst of large amounts of donated money and resources.

Let us also prayerfully consider how we can become involved to extend the love of Christ to those who are hurting and suffering. Pray for the love of Christ to be seen. One pastor in Sri Lanka shares, "We do not have time to share Christ, things are so hectic, we are only able to show Christ."

We must pray for the truth to reach their hearts and that they would receive the life-giving water of Jesus Christ. We must not just pray for their physical needs but their spiritual needs as well.

May Psalm 69, "an urgent plea for help in trouble," be our prayer.
~Prayer Ministry