



Church Plant Profile Emmaus Community Ministries

Location: Burnaby, BC

Community: Burnaby Heights

Pastor/Leader: Rev. Janet MacPhee

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Start Date: January, 2008

Partner(s): Burnaby North Baptist Church, Ward Memorial Baptist Church,
CBWC Church Planting Team

History: Ten years ago Janet MacPhee developed an idea for a non-traditional urban mission, community focused ministry and had an opportunity for a trial run for a first ministry practicum in 1999/2000 in a First Nations Church on the reserve in Nanaimo. The concept, then called the Emmaus Project, was modeled on an holistic, missional & incarnational approach to Christian community development. It is modeled on the example of Jesus, who intimately shared His life with his disciples and those He ministered to. Willingness to listen and speak to needs, and accepting people in a non-judgmental and caring manner, opens the way to meaningful dialogue and was the main idea behind this ministry initiative. In the Bible, the Emmaus Road was a place where Jesus appeared to two people who were feeling discouraged and looking for purpose and meaning for their lives. He walked with them for a time to offer them encouragement and point them in the right direction. (see Luke 24:13 - 35) This philosophy of ministry, and how it has worked itself out, through experiences in ministry and urban mission, forms the basis for Janet's calling as a pastor.

The Emmaus Community we are growing today in East Vancouver and, by extension, in Burnaby, is made up of a core of people invested in undertaking the Christian journey, meeting all kinds of people along the way and walking together as a community of faith, seeking a better understanding of God, and how to serve Him in our neighbourhood.

Vision/Mission: The Emmaus Community seeks to be a fellowship of people walking alongside, and taking an active role in the local community and participating as an integral part of daily life in that neighbourhood, modeling the gospel message authentically to the un-churched.

Burnaby Heights neighbourhood provides a bridge for people from the downtown to move out of that neighbourhood and connect with a different group of people. Our goal is to disciple the people we are walking alongside, wherever we find them, and enfold them within a new neighbourhood and grow community that celebrates the diversity it contains.

Ministry Focus(s):

- connecting men & women in recovery, seniors, neighbours and church folk
- music and fellowship in the setting of a monthly coffeehouse & weekly small groups
- helping people grow in their understanding of who they are in Christ and developing service projects to provide opportunities to give back (community development)
- ministry in neutral settings to people who would not ordinarily attend church
- community chaplaincy (spiritual care for the wider community, including law enforcement)

Worship Times: No specific time or location. We meet people in coffee shops and apartment buildings, meeting people where they are, along with hosting small groups and community dinners to gather people together.

Current size: 12-20 people as of November 2009. Saturday night coffee house 35-65; Wednesday evening small groups, 20.

Prayer & Practical Needs:

- Financial resources & continuing development of community partners with the goal of having a full time pastor / community chaplain and a community-based ministry centre to operate from.
- Prayer support for expansion in our new location in Burnaby
- Growth in community chaplaincy (including police chaplaincy)
- Stability for our people & consistent participation in our core group, as the people we are committed to serving sometimes only stay with us a short time