



Lambrick Park Church is an evangelical community church with roots in the Christian Brethren movement, and is celebrating 50 years in the Gordon Head area of NE Victoria BC. We are a multi-generational faith community of approximately 300.

Only 2 kilometers away from the University of Victoria, and 5 kms from Camosun College, Lambrick seeks to have influence on both those campuses. We have a thriving Pre-School and Day Care, and an important English as a Learned Language ministry, reflecting the changing socio-economic-ethnic demographic in our neighborhood. We have two large high schools, two middle schools, and two elementary schools in School District 61 surrounding us.

OUR HISTORY

- **1950s:** Gordon Head Sunday School Mission functioned out of the Community Hall on Finnerty Road, led by Harry Penman and Sir Ernest Petter. The various Brethren churches of Victoria sponsored the Sunday School for many years, however both Penman and Potter were from Bethesda Chapel, now Oak Bay Gospel Hall.
- **1960s:** Penman and Petter's leadership was followed by John and Ruth Jenner, Brethren missionaries who had served in the West Indies, and returned to Victoria. In 1965, with Jenners retiring to the Shawnigan Lake area, John challenged the young families at Oaklands Chapel to pick up the torch of leadership for the Sunday School mission.
- **1965:** Seeing the need for an adult outreach in addition to the Sunday School, the 5 founding families established University Chapel, anticipating Gordon Head's population growth. UC eventually became known as Lambrick Park Church, which met in rented facilities throughout the Gordon Head area, including an abandoned Anglican Chapel (St. Chad's) and Scout Hall on Tyndall Avenue. For a season the church met at the former Quadra Chapel on Mt Tolmie Road. A connection with the founders of Regent College on the UBC campus is a key part of our heritage. Founding Principal Dr. Brian Sutherland served for many years as the first board chair at Lambrick. Several pastoral sta over the years have been graduates of Regent, and recently retired President Rod Wilson has been a regular guest speaker at Lambrick between 2000 and the present. At the first Annual General Meeting in November 1966 the budget was \$5,170 in total.
- **1970s:** With land on Feltham Road purchased and original chapel opened in 1974, Pastor John Williams was called as the church began holding services in the new Feltham Road building. Phase 2 of the facility, a lounge and preschool space was completed in 1978. WiseWays Preschool, which had existed since 1953 in Gordon Head, came under our umbrella and continues to thrive in that relationship with LPC to this day. Over 1978 – 1979 a handful of families from Lambrick partnered with a core group of people on the Saanich Peninsula who desired to see an evangelical church planted in Saanichton Village. Today Saanichton Bible Fellowship is a thriving church on Mt. Newton X Road directly across from Saanich Peninsula Hospital, and in partnership with Lambrick.

- **1980s:** Tom Cowan was called as pastor in 1981, and Lambrick Park Church began to grow steadily under Tom's teaching ministry. Over time the pastoral staff grew, a second service was added to handle the growth, and a third phase of the facility began to be envisioned, with plans being made to add a multi-purpose gymnasium and sanctuary, and additional Sunday School space. During the 1980s Pastor Peter Rabey and others gave leadership to a variety of growing ministries to children, youth and the surrounding community.

- **1990s:** With the opening of the new, expanded facility came increased opportunity for ministry in our community. Youth programs and staff were added, as well as various support staff. Preliminary prayer and planning for outreach to visitors and athletes of Victoria's 1994 Commonwealth Games was spearheaded by Peter Rabey. Randy Hein came to Lambrick as youth pastor straight from his studies at Regent College, and the Youth Ministry grew exponentially under his leadership. Quickly it became necessary for Lambrick to return to a two service format Sunday mornings. In the mid-1990s Pastor Hein began an alternative Sunday evening service called The Place Community. Aimed at 'under-churched and over-churched' young adults "The Place" quickly became an influential ministry, in no small part due to Lambrick's proximity to the University of Victoria and the significant student population there. By late 1999 the ministry staff, representing key ministries to children and youth, in evangelism and small groups, anchored by teaching and worship had grown to 6. Between 3 services (9 and 11 am, and The Place at 6:30 pm) Sunday attendance was averaging well over 1,000.

- **2000s:** The early years of the 21st century brought with them the inevitable challenges of rapid growth from the previous decade. Several attempts at properly re-structuring Lambrick were made, with limited success. In church growth terminology, Lambrick was struggling to break the 800 – 1000 barrier, as our governance and resourcing and systems all seemed to be outdated, even as some remarkable ministry was taking place, with much spiritual fruit being evident. After 23 years at LPC, Tom Cowan accepted the preaching post at First Baptist Church, Vancouver in 2004, and Lambrick entered a period of significant transition. After an extended but intentional season 2004 – 2008 of reflection, interim team ministry, re-orientation and re-positioning, Lambrick was poised to move into the 2010s.

- **2010s:** Spring 2015 saw a move toward healthy independence by The Place Community. Wiseways preschool continues to build strength through this decade.

- **2016:** LPC ended 2015 strong, and started 2016 even stronger. Meeting budget, a very favorable congregational survey, a wonderful response to our Christmas Missions Project, all exceeding our expectations. We had an energy and excitement surrounding our pastoral search that was palpable. We have plenty to work on, but each Sunday was strong, with good teaching, great worship, resulting in spiritual, numerical and increasingly mature growth.

- **Summer 2016:** LPC welcomed Scott Anderson as Lead Pastor, and Jenn Taylor as Children's Ministry Coordinator.