

# SO, WHY SANTA?

The Christmas season is all about the birth of Jesus - God with us to save us! When we gather for worship services every Sunday of the year, we focus our hearts and minds on Jesus. When we gather for worship services on Sundays in December, we have a special focus on the advent - or arrival - of Jesus. We remember the Son of God's first arrival in humility, born of the virgin Mary to his earthly father Joseph, and we look forward to his second arrival in glory as he comes to judge the living and the dead and make all things new! Our services in December will culminate with our Christmas Eve services when we will get to declare through song and sermon the arrival of Jesus - God with us to save us.

So, why is Santa invited to the East Abbotsford Campus Neighbourhood Christmas Party? It isn't because we think Santa brings better news than Jesus (he doesn't!), or because Santa is better than Jesus (no one can compare with our Lord!). The reason we invited Santa, is because our campus is located in an area of our city with a ton of young families (25% of our average weekly attendance at the East Abbotsford Campus are children grade 5 and younger). So, if we are looking to find a relational bridge with our neighbourhood, one way to do that is to include in our Christmas Party aspects of cultural traditions common to our neighbours. The intention with our Neighbourhood Christmas Party is to have fun as a church, but more so it is designed to build a bridge with people who aren't familiar with Christianity, or who don't normally walk into churches on Sundays, and invite them to a fun party with an invitation to our upcoming Christmas Eve services.

And don't worry, Santa won't be making an appearance on Christmas Eve or our worship services. Our worship services are focused on Jesus, with no other distractions - regardless of how jolly they may be.

Greg Harris  
Campus Pastor - East Abby