

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: info@pgimf.org

January 19th, 2014

Jenna Veenbaas: *Walking in Weakness*

Worship leader: Catherine Cooper
Accompanist: Rosemary Bell

Song Leader: Veronica Dyck
Usher: Henry Neufeld

Last Sunday On January 12th, Tim Tse (PGIMF, graduate theology student at Regent) spoke on the day's lectionary text concerning the baptism of Jesus. Baptism originated with the ancient Jews as a symbolic cleansing from the impurities of sin. The contemporary Essenes could be baptised as often as 14 times a day, constantly repenting. John the Baptist surely knew of them as he practiced his form of baptism at the Jordan River. Jesus asked for baptism for yet another reason, that of demonstrating his acceptance of and identity with John's mission and calls for repentance and change. Our baptism expresses our willingness to follow Jesus. To 16th-c. Anabaptists, being rebaptised symbolized accepting Christianity as an adult, their being more committed to God than to the state. To Anabaptists, baptism has never been a sacrament (which makes insistence on specific forms of baptism seem most unfortunate). One can of course repent, believe and follow Christ as a disciple without ever being baptised. But the symbolism of baptism is possibly similar to that of marriage--a public declaration of commitment, something to be followed with an on-going commitment. [JEK]

PGIMF News

January 26 th	Tony Tremblett	The Good Old Days
February 2 nd	Janice Kreider	Lectionary texts
February 9 th	J. Evan Kreider	The Other Lectionary Texts
February 16 th	Dr. Cheryl Pauls	TBA

Wider Church

MCC Clash: Conflict and Its Consequences is a display of the National Gallery of Canada. A public conversation Steps Toward Healing and Hope featuring this display will be hosted by The Reach in conjunction with MCC BC, Mennonite Historical Society BC, Langley Mennonite Fellowship and Emmanuel Mennonite Church. The evening begins with a guided tour of the exhibit by Andrea Kunard, Associate Curator at the National Gallery of Canada and follows with a presentation by Esther Epp-Tiessen, MCC Ottawa Office, on MCC's work supporting trauma recovery. Following the presentation, there will be an interactive conversation with the audience. Thursday 30 January 2014 @ 7:00 pm. All welcome to The Reach Gallery Museum, 32388 Veterans Way, Abbotsford,

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity All Vancouver Christians are invited to an ecumenical prayer service to mark the occasion of the January 18th-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday January 19th at 7:00 pm at First Lutheran Church, (5745 Wales St., Vancouver). Refreshments follow. Publicized by Mennonite Church BC.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

Moderator—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961); *Worship*—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Pastoral Care—Laura & Sven Eriksson (604-946-2345); *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Regent College is pleased to host the 2013-14 Laing Lectures featuring Dr. Ellen T. Charry, (Princeton Theological Seminary). Dr. Charry will deliver a series of three lectures on the topic "Christian Theology as a Guide for the Emotions" on February 19 and 20, 2014 at Regent College beginning Wednesday night at 7:30 pm. For Dr. Charry, theology is not a theoretical enterprise, but rather an eminently practical and religious undertaking. In these lectures, she pursues answers to the question of how Christian beliefs and practices can nurture people intellectually, morally, and psychologically in the course of everyday life and work.

2Corinthians 12:1-10

¹It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the

exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. [NRSV]

Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,

the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. [NRSV]

Habakkuk 3:17-19

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord;

I will exult in the God of my salvation.
¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.
[NRSV]

Call to Worship

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.**

³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ **The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.**

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

⁷ **for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.**

Psalm 95:1-7