

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org)

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Palm Sunday

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service will be led by John Friesen; we will be led in song by Lisa-Dawn Kiltbau, Rosemary Bell will accompany at the piano, and Edward Epp is your usher. Today's service includes communion, features a solo by former MSC-resident Joel Kroeker, and later we will hear a message from Phil Schafran, who will be speaking on "Interfaith Bridge-Building: Engaging Religious Viewpoints that are not our own" Acts 17:16-34. Please join us afterward for pizza lunch before we return to the chapel to consider our accomplishments and our future at the PGIMF Annual General Meeting. All are welcome to attend and contribute. *Parents with small children, please note arrangements have been made for child-minding on the second and last Sundays of each month, and you are invited to contact other parents or any church board member for more information.*

**Last Sunday** Janice Kreider focussed on two passages from Psalm 23: "you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies," and "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." This is an unusual idea, eating a sumptuous meal while your enemies watch. Maybe the enemies were invited but declined, maybe they weren't invited, maybe they excluded themselves. It is surprising that no emotion is expressed here; no fear or hatred is directed toward the enemy who watches you eat. This reminded Janice of Eleanor Kreider's response when asked what mission might look like in a post-Christendom world. "It looks like neighbours and strangers gazing in the windows of the Christian community, longing for the invitation to join the bounteous meal spread on the generous table. "Dwell in the house of the Lord" should read "I shall return to the house of the Lord," which reflects the reality of our journey and the fact that we can return to the house of the Lord at any time. The 23rd psalm is a reminder of God's goodness and the comforting theme that God is with us and cares for us. (HN)

## PGIMF News

April 24

Easter Sunday

Potluck Breakfast

May 1

Joseph Dutko

Trading for Awe and Wonder

May 8

Karl Brown

May 15

TBA

## The Wider Church

**Blog of the Week** Rosie points us to a new worship blog that explores intersections between our theology and worship. Sopl of Stacey's reflections (as a Regent alumnus) may be of value. <http://thinkingworship.wordpress.com/about/>

**MCC** Offers winter reading for the cold days and nights still with us. *Living More with Less - 30th Anniversary edition*; by Doris Janzen Longacre, revised and edited by Valerie Weaver-Zercher. Originally published in 1980, long before "green" and "100-mile diet" were part of our everyday vocabulary, Longacre wrote a book that is both spiritual treatise and practical handbook. And *A Table of Sharing: Mennonite Central Committee and the Expanding Networks of Mennonite Identity* - edited by Alain Epp Weaver. To celebrate MCC's 90th anniversary, this collection of stories and essays tells the rich history and current day tales that make MCC what it is today. Both available at MCC today.

**For Rent** Anyone looking for a new home in West Point Grey is invited to share a 4-br house with Westside Church attender Dave Wiebe. See the notice on the bulletin board in the hall.

### **Easter Sunday Potluck Breakfast**

Please remember our service starts at the regular time of 10:00 am next Sunday, but you are invited to attend at 9:00 am our Easter Sunday Potluck breakfast featuring some of the most innovative Easter cooking seen in any church! All welcome, friends and guests too.

### **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.

**MCBC** Is searching for nominees to the Service Peace & Justice Committee to work with Henry Krause, Karina Toews & others to promote awareness of peace concerns at local levels, and engage in a ministry of reconciliation through the Place of Refuge (transitional living to recovering addicts), and Lifebridge Ministries (to the recovery community in Abbotsford). Other projects include reconciliation to native ministries with Steve Heinrichs, with MCC-BC, and encouraging the MC Canada "Peace in the Public Square initiative. See Belinda Rempel (FUMC Admin Assistant) for details.

**Abendmusik Vespers**  
LENTEN VESPERS with Abendmusik Choir,  
conducted by Tim Corlis

Tonight ( April 17) at 8:00 pm, Knox United Church, 5600 Balaclava. St. In Vancouver

**MC Canada Witness** Janet Plenert, Executive Secretary of Witness, has resigned from her position after more than five years in this role, and twenty-five years of passionate service to the church in missions as varied as MDS, CPT, missions and Evangelism, Mennonite women and Mennonite World Conference. Her last day is April 21 and there are no plans as yet..

**MCC** Volunteers really are at the heart of MCC. It was volunteers who began this organization over 90 years ago and volunteers who sustain it both locally and overseas. MCC couldn't exist without volunteers! April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and MCC will spend this month celebrating and focusing on the many ways in which volunteers contribute to this organization.

### **Vancouver Cantata Singers**

In partnership with the Vancouver Chamber Choir

Cantata Singers joins forces with the Vancouver Chamber Choir to perform an a cappella wonder from the Slavonic Liturgy: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom by the Russian master Sergei Rachmaninov. The concert also features Vancouver Chamber Choir in a world premiere of the latest new work by British Columbia's Imant Raminsh. John William Trotter will give an introduction to both works in a free pre-concert talk at 7pm. Concert on Friday, April 22 at 8:00pm at the Orpheum Theatre, 601 Smithe Street (at Seymour). Tickets: \$42.50/\$38 (available through Ticketmaster - service charges apply)

**Mennonite Church Canada** regrets to inform the congregations that a smaller national conference is being planned, due to the large budget shortfall. A complete outline of the situation and prayer requests is posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

At **election time**, one always wonders if one vote will really make a difference. Mennonite Church Canada insists it can, and together with MCC, Canadian Council of Churches, EFC and others, offer you a toolkit (available at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1502](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1502).) to challenge all electoral candidates in your respective ridings on what the church has already agreed upon: reduce poverty, counter climate change in meaningful ways, increase overseas development assistance, use non-military efforts to end war in Afghanistan, eliminate nuclear weapons, and more. Together, we have an influential voice for change – if we choose to use it. Track the governments' responses and progress on issues that are MCC priorities via MCC's Ottawa office. In addition, ask your candidates to respond to the Campaign to Establish a Federal Department of Peace in Canada. Would your candidate support this initiative? It's hard to know if candidate responses to these challenges will help you decide how to vote, but challenging candidates on these issues helps to build awareness among political leaders that there is a compassionate church in Canada that cares.

**Camp Squeah** Today, as we worship together, 24 paddlers are worshipping on the Fraser River to support a number of volunteer camp leaders at Camp Squeah this summer. We give thanks and praise for the paddle-a-thon participants this morning, both those in the water, and those travelling on land behind the scenes to ensure a safe, successful event; for the many summer staff who have already committed to serve this summer, and for the summer staff whom God is still calling to fill those roles still vacant. Your financial support of the staff bursary support programme is also welcome - visit the website at [www.squeah.com/Paddle-A-Thon.html](http://www.squeah.com/Paddle-A-Thon.html)

**Columbia Bible College** is presenting its 75th graduating class on Saturday, April 23 at 10:30AM. Participating in the ceremony are 116 graduates. Addressing the students will be Dr. Walter Unger; Danielle Nazarewich is the Valedictorian. The ceremony will be held at Sevenoaks Alliance Church; everyone is welcome!

### Acts 17:16-34

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbling man want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup> So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?' <sup>20</sup> It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed

anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." <sup>29</sup> Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

<sup>32</sup> When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' <sup>33</sup> At that point Paul left them. <sup>34</sup> But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

[NRSV]