

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org

April 24th, 2011

Easter Sunday

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our Easter Sunday service of worship, song, prayer and readings will be led by J. Evan Kreider; we will be led in song by Eric Hannan, Ruth Enns will accompany at the piano, and Henry Neufeld is your usher. Thanks to everyone who participated in our Sunday Morning Easter Potluck Breakfast - it is always as great a pleasure to eat with friends as to worship with them. *Parents with small children, please note arrangements have been made for child-minding on the second and last Sundays of each month, You are invited to contact any church board member for more information.*

Last Sunday Phil Schafran (MCC) spoke on "Interfaith Bridge-Building: engaging religious viewpoints that are not our own". Each of us has a tendency toward religious toleration, and a tendency toward religious intolerance. MCC sees this wherever it works around the world, and tries to start with its workers having a strong inner personal faith, which provides a firm foundation for a wide variety of challenges. From that foundation, its workers can cooperate with believers of other faiths on projects in which both faiths have a common interest, such as peace making and service. MCC assumes that by working with people of other faiths on common projects, we can learn from each other, learn what makes each of us serve, for faith reasons. When the government in Somalia decreed that Islam had to be taught in all schools, most Protestant missionaries closed their schools and left. But some Mennonites decided to stay and let Islam be taught in their school, because by staying, they could continue serving the students and community and quietly witness through their lives. Somalians later revealed that this proved to be a crucial turning point in their thinking about Christianity. In Acts 17, Paul participated in an inter-faith dialogue with Athenians. Paul knew enough about their various religions that he could find points of commonality, and from there he attempted to draw them into serious conversations about faith, including his new faith. In all inter-faith dialogues there will be understanding and misunderstanding, tolerance and intolerance. Paul did not emphasize differences which divided the faiths but instead identified where their beliefs coincided. Paul had mixed results, and we can expect the same, but this never deterred Paul from entering into still new cross-faith discussions. [JEK]

PGIMF News

May 1	Joseph Dutko	Trading for Awe and Wonder
May 8	Karl Brown	Lectionary texts
May 15	Veronica Dyck	I am the Gate for the Sheep
May 22	TBA	-

New contacts Just a reminder that Harold Neufeldt's e-mail has changed to (available from webmaster) and Jonathan Ehling is using his other e-mail address now - you can reach him at (available from webmaster)

The Wider Church

Blog of the week No, not quite. This week's feature is a TED talk (*TED - Ideas Worth Spreading*) by religious thinker Karen Armstrong on the creation of her Charter of Compassion. In 2008 she enlisted the help of religious thinkers of every stripe from around the world to revive the Golden Rule, and in 2009, the Charter for Compassion was launched. You can learn more about it at <http://charterforcompassion.org/site/>. Armstrong, a former nun, has written more than 20 books on faith and the major religions, studying what Islam, Judaism and Christianity have in common, and how our faiths shaped world history and drive current events. "I say that religion isn't about believing things. It's ethical alchemy." See the video at http://www.ted.com/talks/karen_armstrong_let_s_revive_the_golden_rule.html

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—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);
Pastoral Care—Erika Hannan (604-325-5065); *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Regent College Continues its series of public lectures this summer season beginning May 5th with W. David O. Taylor speaking on *Art, the Holy Spirit, Fig Trees and the Problem of Abundance*. Lecture takes place Thursday, May 5, 8:00pm in the chapel at Regent College. Come early for a good seat.

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.

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.) 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? Challenging candidates on these issues helps to build awareness among political leaders that there is a compassionate church in Canada that cares.

MDS continues to respond to the flood damage in Kingcome Inlet. Thank you for your continued prayers as two more teams of volunteers worked from April 26-May 7. A summer youth project is planned during July in this community as well. For more information, please contact Leonard Klassen at (available from webmaster) or 604-855-2542. Donations to support this project can be sent to MDS 6a-1325 Markham Rd. Winnipeg R3T 4J6 or online at www.mds.mennonite.net.

MCC If you're looking for a unique vacation opportunity for you and your family, come camping this summer with MCC! Join us for our annual MCC Aboriginal Neighbours Camping Trip from July 18-24 and spend a week on beautiful Vancouver Island where you'll get to visit with Mennonite Forester Harold Macy and interact with the Aboriginal Community in Port Hardy. Tour participants should be prepared to be self-sufficient in a camping environment. All gear, transportation and campground expenses, entrance fees and meals are to be borne by participants. MCC is responsible for booking sites, and coordinating and leading the tour. Cost is \$100 per family or \$50 per person charged to cover administrative costs. Get all the details when you visit <http://bc.mcc.org/whatwedo/campingtrip>

☞ Call for delegates to the Mennonite Church Canada annual sessions to be held in Waterloo ON July 4-8. See Andre or Don if you want to go.

Mennonite-Aboriginal Neighbours Project The delegate body at the MCBC Annual Meeting gave approval to a ½ time position for 1 year to develop the relationship of Mennonites and First Nations people in BC. Including benefits, the total amount is \$27,500 (above budget). To show our commitment to this project, we are being challenged to raise 60% of it by April 30th, 2011 (\$16,500). So you're requested to pour out your hearts and open your wallets and send in your pledges to adminatmcbc.ca.

2011 PGIMF Retreat, May 27th - 29th, 2011

Join us once again for an enjoyable and relaxing weekend full of opportunities to grow your spirit and your practice at our annual PGIMF retreat at Camp Luther. Our theme this year is "Telling Our Stories", and will feature exercises, games, talks and workshops to highlight the experience of telling our stories in new and vibrant ways. The committee is working on speakers and presenters for the talks, as well as leading our Sunday morning worship service. The church has a no-barrier policy to attending the retreat, so please make plans to attend, even if you can't afford the suggested fee of \$60 per person (\$30 for children) - talk to any member of the church board. For any questions, please contact Diane Ehling, Erika Hannan or Andre Pekovich.