

## POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service today will be led by Veronica Dyck, Rosie Perera will lead us in song, Ruth Enns will accompany at the piano, and Erika Hannan is your usher. Later we will be hearing from Rabbi David Mivasair of the Ahavat Olam congregation, who will speak to us about the prophetic voice of Judaism. Please join us after the service coffee and fellowship and pizza lunch, and afterward the congregation will hold its Annual General Meeting. **All are invited to stay for lunch and give voice and vote** to the business of the church. *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** Last Sunday Ken Friesen reflected on his recent tour to Israel and Palestine with an MCC group. Ken noted that MCC has been working in the area since 1949, shortly after the establishment of the state of Israel. The experience provided Ken (an MCC-BC Board member) with an opportunity to see what peace-making looks like in a conflict area. He observed that the Israel/Palestine situation is controversial: some Christians want total support for Israel while others are concerned about how the Palestinians are treated by the Israeli state. Palestinians are up against a highly organized military state. People in the Middle East hold strong and unflinching political views. MCC's role is to share Christ's love and become a blessing through service to others. MCC's work involves partnerships with a dozen local organizations, including a conflict resolution centre and products for Ten Thousand Villages. Citing Jesus teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, Ken said we should treat others with love and respect, and we should be giving priority to compassion over power and control. God's requirement is that we respond to human need, wherever it may be. (HN)

### PGIMF News

May 6

Hannah Dutko

Revelation 12:11

May 13

Barbara Nickel

Mothers' Day/Poetry and Peace

May 20

Megan Jung

Boldly, For the Love of God

May 27

\*\*\*PGIMF Church Retreat at Camp Luther with Rob Des Cotes\*\*\*

### The Wider Church

**MB Mission** Ed & Ingrid Russell are involved in language and culture acquisition in Thailand. Pray that they would continue to do well in learning the language. Pray for wisdom and discernment for them and the others involved in making plans for their future ministry location.

**MCC fundraising luncheon** *A Table of Sharing*, MCC's fundraising luncheon at Garden Park Tower in Abbotsford will be held Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> at noon. Come to hear story telling by MCC BC Executive Director Wayne Bremner, an opportunity to sing your favourite hymns, and a wonderful lunch. Tickets are \$7.50 and are available from the MCC office, the Garden Park Tower office and local churches. For more information call MCC BC at 1 888 622 6337 or visit [bc.mcc.org/getinvolved/luncheon](http://bc.mcc.org/getinvolved/luncheon)

**BCMB Leadership Changes** Merv Boschman reported on Thursday that BCMB Moderator Rob Thiessen has stepped aside as BCMB Moderator effective Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ron Van Akker will step in as Acting Moderator through the BCMB 2012 convention. You are encouraged to pray for all concerned as the conference continues to pray to the Lord for leadership.

### 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.

☞ **2012 BCMB Convention** This upcoming weekend May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Broadway MB Church in Chilliwack sees the BCMB Annual Convention. We are looking to send 3 delegates this year. The cost to attend convention is \$20/person and will include a light breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks on Saturday. The report book is now available on the BCMB website at <http://www.bcmb.org/qry/page.taf?id=210> Along with the most recent list of nominations (there have been several updates), registration forms, convention agenda and recommendations. Please feel free to download any of the documents from the Conference web page, and if assistance is needed, please call the Conference office at 604-853-6959.

**Pacific Theatre presents** the season finale, *100 Saints You Should Know*, a light exploration of the search for God that occupies us all at some time. Kate Fodor wrote this play of a group of city-dwellers, each discovering for themselves why or why not to pray, and you begin to see why the New York Time called it a play that "...glows with the sense that the keenest evidence for God is in the homiest details." May 4-26 at Pacific Theatre - 1440 W 12th Ave. Tickets \$16.50-29.50 - get yours online or call 604-731-5518

**Mennonite Church Canada Assembly 2012** Assembly 2012 Early Bird registration deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend *Dusting off the Bible for the 21st Century*, Mennonite Church Canada's 2012 Assembly in Vancouver. There will be music, inspiration, friends, faith, and food. Save by signing up by May 15th! Details at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012).

**Regent College Summer School Regent College** The Regent Summer conference 2012 series continues with *The Next Great Challenge: Thinking Together about Aging* featuring Margaret Somerville, Maxine Hancock, J.I. Packer & Jim Houston. As more people live longer than in any other time in history, neither church nor culture seems adequately prepared to face the needs, costs, and moral consequences of this "grey tsunami." Join one of Canada's leading public intellectuals and three of Regent's own gifted scholars as they think about the implications and the opportunities that this next great challenge offers us. Friday May 18 from 6:00 pm to Saturday May 19 at 4:30 pm, refreshments and lunch provided, cost \$100-160. Register on-line at [www.regent-college.edu](http://www.regent-college.edu) or by phone at 604-224-3245

#### CANADIAN PEACE INITIATIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

##### Ever thought a country could have a Department of Peace?

Bring your passion, curiosity, questions and comments to the Canadian Peace Initiative's Public Consultation on Bill C-373: Department of Peace Act. First, read Bill C-373 online at [www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca), and then come prepared to share your questions, suggestions and comments in a Dialogue with Peace Commissioners Bill Siksay (former MP who first introduced the Bill in Parliament in 2009), Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford (global peace-building physician and author of *Enough Blood Shed*), and Blake MacLeod (World Federalist Movement-Canada). Saturday May 5, 2012 from 1:30—3:30 pm at Room A122a, Langara College, 100 W. 49th Ave, Vancouver. Brought to you by the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and Langara College.

#### Isaiah 57:14 - 58:14

*This translation was taken from the JPS Tanakh*

#### Chapter 57

Leader: <sup>14</sup> [The Lord] says:  
**Build up, build up a highway!**  
**Clear the road!**  
**Remove all obstacles**

**From the road of My people!**  
<sup>15</sup> **For thus said He who high aloft**  
**Forever dwells, whose name is holy;**  
**I dwell on high, in holiness;**  
**Yet with the contrite and the lowly**  
**in spirit —**

**Reviving the spirits of the lowly,  
Reviving the hearts of the contrite.**

*Women:* <sup>16</sup> *For I will not always contend,  
I will not be angry forever:  
Nay, I who make spirits flag,  
Also create the breath of life.*

<sup>17</sup> *For their sinful greed I was angry;  
I struck them and turned away in My  
wrath.  
Though stubborn, they follow the way of  
their hearts,*

**Men:** <sup>18</sup> **I note how they fare and will heal  
them:  
I will guide them and mete out solace to  
them,  
And to the mourners among them**  
<sup>19</sup> **heartening, comforting words:  
It shall be well,  
Well with the far and the near  
--- said the Lord ---  
And I will heal them.**

*All:* <sup>20</sup> *But the wicked are like the troubled  
sea  
Which cannot rest,  
Whose waters toss up mire and mud.  
<sup>21</sup> There is no safety  
--- said my God ---  
For the wicked.*

## Chapter 58

**Leader:** <sup>1</sup> **Cry with full throat, without restraint;  
Raise your voice like a ram's horn!  
Declare to My people their  
transgression,  
To the House of Jacob their sin.**

<sup>2</sup> **To be sure, they seek Me daily,  
Eager to learn My ways.  
Like a nation that does what is right,  
That has not abandoned the laws of its  
God,  
They ask Me for the right way,  
They are eager for the nearness of God:**

*Women:* <sup>3</sup> *"Why, when we fasted, did You not see?  
When we starved our bodies, did You  
pay no heed?"*

**Leader:** **Because on your fast day  
You see to your business**

**And oppress all your laborers!  
<sup>4</sup> Because you fast in strife and  
contention,  
And you strike with a wicked fist!  
your fasting today is not such  
As to make your voice heard on high.**

*Men:* <sup>5</sup> *Is such the fast I desire,  
A day for men to starve their bodies?  
Is it bowing the head like a bulrush  
And lying in sackcloth and ashes?  
Do you call that a fast,  
A day when the Lord is favorable?*

**Leader:** <sup>6</sup> **No, this is the fast I desire:  
To unlock the fetters of wickedness,  
And untie the cords of the yoke  
To let the oppressed go free;  
To break off every yoke.**  
<sup>7</sup> **It is to share your bread with the  
hungry,  
And to take the wretched poor into your  
home;  
When you see the naked, to clothe him,  
And not to ignore your own kin.**

*Women:* <sup>8</sup> *Then shall your light burst through like  
the dawn  
And your healing spring up quickly;  
Your Vindicator shall march before you,  
The Presence of the Lord shall be your  
rear guard.  
<sup>9</sup> Then, when you call, the Lord will  
answer;  
When you cry, He will say: Here I am.*

*If you banish the yoke from your midst,  
The menacing hand and evil speech,  
<sup>10</sup> And you offer your compassion to the  
hungry  
And satisfy the famished creature —  
The shall your light shine in darkness,  
And your gloom shall be like noonday.  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you always;*

**Leader:** **He will slake your thirst in parched  
places  
And give strength to your bones.  
You shall be like a watered garden,  
Like a spring whose waters do not fail.**

*Men:* <sup>12</sup> *Men from your midst shall rebuild  
ancient ruins,  
you shall restore foundations laid long  
ago.  
And you shall be called  
"Repairer of fallen walls,  
Restorer of lanes for habitation."*

**Leader:** <sup>13</sup> **If you refrain from trampling the  
Sabbath,  
From pursuing your affairs on My holy  
day;  
If call the Sabbath "delight,"**

**The Lord's holy day "honored";  
And if you honor it and go not your  
ways  
Nor look to yours affairs, nor strike  
bargains —  
<sup>14</sup> Then you can seek the favor of the  
Lord.  
I will set you astride the heights of the  
earth,  
And let you enjoy the heritage of your  
father Jacob —**

*ALL: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

### **Micah 4:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the  
mountains,  
and shall be raised up above the hills.  
Peoples shall stream to it,  
<sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come and say:  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far  
away;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more;  
<sup>4</sup> but they shall all sit under their own vines and  
under  
their own fig trees,  
and no one shall make them afraid;  
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the peoples walk,  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our  
God  
for ever and ever. [NRSV]

## Psalm 118

### *A Song of Victory*

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever!
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say,  
‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’
- <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the Lord say,  
‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’
- <sup>5</sup> Out of my distress I called on the Lord;  
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad  
place.
- <sup>6</sup> With the Lord on my side I do not fear.  
What can mortals do to me?
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord is on my side to help me;  
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
- <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to put confidence in mortals.
- <sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to put confidence in princes.
- <sup>10</sup> All nations surrounded me;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- <sup>11</sup> They surrounded me, surrounded me on every  
side;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- <sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees;  
they blazed like a fire of thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- <sup>13</sup> I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,  
but the Lord helped me.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of  
the righteous:  
‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
- <sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.’
- <sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
- <sup>18</sup> The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- <sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> This is the Lord’s doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- <sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
- <sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- <sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.
- <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.
- <sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

[NRSV]

## Opening prayer

L The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

**P We believe in the goodness of God.  
We believe God hears and responds to our needs.  
We believe God responds to all children everywhere.**

L He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.

**P We are grateful that we've been blessed with enough water.  
But we know that many do not have enough.  
Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.**

L He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**P Too many children do not see God's righteousness.  
Too many children watch violence, taste hunger, feel fear.  
too many children cry from the unspeakable horror of war.**

L Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**P To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious.  
Our hearts may be broken and our lives may be threatened.  
Yet we hear God calling and we can no longer hide.**

L Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies;  
thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

**P Our steps may be small and timid.  
We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift.  
But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.**

L Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**P God is more relentless than war.  
God is more pervasive than hatred.  
God is more insistent than despair.**

L Amen.

**P Amen.**

Based on Psalm 23. Written for the Union Church UCC of Tekonsha, 1994. Copyright Katherine Hawker.