

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org

June 12th, 2011

Pentecost

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service today will be led by Kevin Hiebert; we will be led in song by Lisa-Dawn Kiltbau, accompanied at the piano by Titus Gregory, and Erika Hannan is your usher. Later, we will hear from Mariam Kamell who will continue the mini-series speaking on James 1:19-27. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge after the service. *Parents with small children, please note child-minding is available on the second and last Sundays of each month. Please contact any church board member for more information.*

Last Sunday Mariam Kamell, speaking on James 1:7-12, noted how we view God has serious implications for how we act, just as how we view our friends and coworkers affects how we relate to them. James does not present theology so much as a manual for living. It's both wisdom literature in the line of Proverbs, with its theology, partly hidden behind a prescription for life; and it's also in apocalyptic tradition as James presents God's judgment at every turn. James bears warning as prophetic literature - if you do not choose God's ways, you will be destroyed, so choose life and live. This is in line with Jesus' commandment to the people "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." God is a covenant-making God (vs 12) who responds to faithfulness. Therefore we should submit to our trials with God's promise of relief to us in our ears. We should resist temptation - to blame someone else, to succumb to our desires - (vs 13-15) for the outcome is death. It's not God's requests of us that cause us to sin, it's our own resistance. When we act out of love for God, and obey his commands, we are assured of mercy from God. We are not told to judge each other nor God. He is above all a good and giving God, (vs. 16-18) especially when we approach God in our lack, giving us good and perfect gifts. The ethics in James become dos and don'ts if we do not love God. Let us love God instead. [AP]

Summer Coffee Service

Everyone is grateful for the coffee and goodies that have been provided so far this summer season. Please continue to sign up on the list on the bulletin board at the back to help out. Please see Hannelore if you have any questions.

PGIMF Church Board Potluck As everyone is a major contributor to church life, everyone is invited to the PGIMF Church Board turnover potluck coming up on Friday June 17th at 6:00 pm (dinner served at 7:00pm). Please bring your favourite dish to the Teichroeb's home overlooking Lost Lagoon and Stanley Park, and enjoy the fellowship of our group. Non-alcoholic drinks served, but good wine at gatherings of the faithful is both biblical and always welcome.

Blog of the week Not really about Mennonites, but the Kreiders have another one while they're travelling in France. <http://www.postcardsfromstmaurice.blogspot.com/>

PGIMF News

June 19	Worship in the Park	-
June 26	John Neufeld	He is out of his mind - why listen to Him?
July 3	Laura Eriksson	Women of the Bible I - Naomi
July 10	Evan Kreider	Baptismal service

Refugee support The family from Al Hol refugee camp should arrive in a couple of weeks, though strife in Syrai is worrying. Furniture and household items have already been donated. If you would still like to help, please contact Chris Skinner. Help with settling in, driving to appointments and such is gratefully received.

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)

Service in the Park Anyone interested in singing John Rutter's setting of *All Things Bright and Beautiful* for Worship in the Park on Sunday morning, June 19 please let Rosie know. One rehearsal on June 14 at 7:30pm, location TBA (either St. Helen's or WPG Presbyterian.)

MB Herald Anyone with membership in the BC Conference of MB Churches who wishes a subscription to the Mennonite Brethren Herald please contact Andre to ensure you can get on the list to this excellent publication. The conference covers the cost for MB members.

The Wider Church

MB Mission Christoph & Antonia Haegele are German missionaries who have been serving for several years with MB Mission in Lithuania. As they begin to transition back to Germany, please pray that new vision and direction would become clear to their family. Also please continue to pray for the local leaders in Lithuania who have stepped up to take over the work.

Mennonite Men If you are male 13-years and older from a Mennonite church in the Metro area, you are invited on June 11th to a complementary breakfast and an introductory meeting of Mennonite Men at Peace Mennonite Church, 11571 Daniels Rd in Richmond from 8:30am - 10:30am. Peace welcomes Gareth Brandt, Instructor at CBC as keynote speaker for the morning. Gareth is the author of *Under Construction: Reframing Men's Spirituality* and will be sharing some of his thoughts from that book. Pray for that God may bless this gathering, and that there may be a vision for men's ministry in MCBC. Please RSVP Samson Lo at the MC-BC conference office if you can come.

Regent College The Regent College Admissions Office is looking for willing hosts to provide free housing and local telephone use for up to one week (between August 1 and September 15) for incoming students while they search for permanent housing. Please contact Amy 604-221-3355.

Mennonite Church Canada Assembly

To be held this year in Waterloo is fast approaching. See www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/waterloo2011/ or call 1-866-888-6785 for registration information. There are two key documents for Assembly 2011 now available for you to download in PDF format from <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/events/waterloo2011/>

- A Report Book, which documents ministry activity of the last year;
- A Discernment Guide, which contains helpful information as you prepare to meet with the Mennonite Church Canada slice of God's family in Waterloo to decide matters of faith and business.

Please see Andre or Don if you wish to attend

MCBC In 2006, Prime minister Stephen Harper apologized in the House of Commons to the First Peoples of Canada for the traffic legacy of residential schools. On June 16th at 7:00 pm, the Indian Residential School Survivors Society will present the history of Canada's attempt to assimilate Native peoples through the residential school system. Survivors will share stories and offer peacemaking paths for the church. First United Mennonite Church, 659 E. 52nd Ave. Vancouver. For more information, contact Steve Heinrichs at 604-466-9791.

James 1:19-27

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at

themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. [NRSV]

James 2:1-13

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement. [NRSV]

James 4:1-12

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the

scripture says, 'God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us'? ⁶But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says,

'God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.'

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. [NRSV]

James 5:13-20

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being

like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. [NRSV]