

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: (redacted)

March 9th, 2008

5th of Lent

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Today our Lenten service of worship, prayers, readings and songs is based on the lectionary texts, and we will be led in worship by Andre Pekovich, in song by Veronica Dyck, Deberah Shears will accompany on the piano, and Erika Hannan is your usher. Parents are requested to make their own arrangements for child care during the service if they feel their children don't wish to remain in the chapel during the service. Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Last Sunday Henry Neufeld spoke on "Mud in my eyes". After Samuel was finally forced to acknowledge that his sons were hopelessly corrupt and unworthy of succeeding him in office, he agreed to help the people establish a monarchy. Years later, after King Saul eventually became a disobedient and ineffective ruler, the aging Samuel anointed the youthful David as someone who would 'see' more clearly as king. John 9 tells how Jesus gave sight to a man (blind from birth) by spitting on the road's dust, making mud and placing it on the man's eyes. Although people assumed that the unfortunate chap was blind because of sin, Jesus said that this definitely was not the case – implying that it never is the case. Some Pharisees argued that Jesus could not be from God because he healed the blind man on the Sabbath, whereas the formerly blind man responded that only God could make such a great miracle possible. The story helps us understand that sometimes those who make a pretense of 'seeing' are themselves blind, whereas Christ gives 'sight'. Interestingly, the blind man never asked for healing, nor was he required to have faith. This is therefore yet another story reminding us that Jesus brought different people to salvation in different ways, each according to their need. Jesus recognized that no one formula or approach could be successfully applied to any two people. For example, only Nicodemus was instructed to be 'born again' (neither Jesus nor his followers ever suggested this to anyone else). Only the rich young ruler was asked to give away all of his wealth, and although Jesus apparently never brought up the topic of money with another very wealthy man, Zacchaeus came to understand on his own that he needed to volunteer to make restitution if he was to become more like Jesus. Since Jesus never offered a single formula for us to follow, Paul wisely instructed us to "work out our own salvation, with fear and trembling". This implies that we need to become creative when examining ourselves this Lenten season so that we can identify and then remove the mud from our own eyes. Had Samuel's sons and King Saul learned this lesson, Jewish history might have been quite different. [JEK]

✝ **Lenten Prayer Vigils** Come celebrate the Lenten season with our neighbouring Point Grey churches with a prayer vigil at noon on Wednesday March 12th at St Helen's Anglican (8th & Trimble) for about 20 minutes.

PGIMF News

Upcoming speakers

March 16	Evan Kreider	Palm Sunday
March 23	Service of worship/potluck breakfast	Easter Sunday
March 30	Markku Kostamo	Caring for Creation
April	TBA	-

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*—Erna Friesen (604-266-7819);

Pastoral Care—John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)

Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

☺Rovin is home after his angioplasty, and continues to welcome our prayer support, and is receiving phone calls and e-mail. **Note:** Rovin's home number is (available from webmaster) and his cell is (available from webmaster), and not as given in the church list. You can also reach him by e-mail at (redacted)

✉Betty Funk's new address: (available from webmaster)

The Wider Church

MBMSI Pray today for **Rob and Judy Griffioen**, MBMSI workers in Thailand. Praise God for connections with Thai neighbours and with the tsunami victims in Phangnga. Pray for the children that are coming to the English outreach classes and for their team, Operation 2nd Wave, that there would be peace and unity as they begin to plant churches.

🎵You are invited to an exciting concert by the **African Children's Choir** at our Killarney Park MB Church on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm. Admission is by free will donation. The choir raises profile of the needs of destitute children everywhere, but especially in Africa, and the present choir has special needs in that many are from Kenya, and are concerned about family and friends back home. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy an evening of musical ministry.

Regent College The free lectures at Regent College continue this Tuesday March 11th at 8:00 pm in the Chapel with Rikk Watts will speak on "Cunning, Lies, and Rhetorical Deceit?: Can We Trust what the NT Authors Do with their Jewish Scriptures?" This will be followed by a booksigning of his book Commentary on *The New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Then, on Thursday, March 13 at 8:00 pm, Darrell Johnson will speak on "The Gospel According to John the Baptist Takes Away...and Fills", and followed by a booksigning of *It is Finished: Meditations on the Death of Jesus*. Free admission, all welcome, and come early for a good seat

MCC Carrier First Nation Elders Stanley Boyd and Dennis and Cathy Patrick (Nazko) will talk about "The Meaning of Land." Thursday March 13th at 7:30pm at First United Mennonite Church 659 East 52nd Avenue, Vancouver. There will be time for questions and interaction and coffee will be served. For more complete details visit www.mcc.org/bc/abneighbours or contact Darryl Klassen at (604) 850-6639 or 1-888-622-6337

MCC Columbian MCC staff has called to convey the urgency to pray for peace, as there is a strong possibility of war erupting between Colombia and the neighboring countries of Ecuador and Venezuela. Staff in Colombia report that military presence has heightened and the atmosphere is very tense. On the bulletin board in the hall is a guided reflection prepared by Rebecca Bartel, Policy Analyst for MCC Colombia. Please join us in this call for prayer. For more information about MCC's work in Colombia, visit www.mcc.org/colombia

Lenten Vespers

with **Abendmusik Choir**

Abbotsford: Sat., Mar. 15, 8:00 pm, Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, 3386 Mt. Lehman Rd.

Vancouver: Sun., Mar. 16, 8:00 pm, Knox United Church, 5600 Balaclava at West 41st.

All donations benefit the Menno Simons Centre.

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us anoint our leader with ointment;
People: Let us touch his feet with our hair.
Leader: Let us invite our Lord to our table;
People: Let us take his coat and offer the chair.
Leader: Bring in your family and summon your neighbour;
People: All who are able, come soon, come soon!
All: The Master approaches, the master who serves!
Prepare for his coming, make ready his room!

Confessing Our Sins

Leader: Out of the depths , we cry to you, O Lord

People: Clutching our securities and rewards, ruled by our fears and desires, resenting and resisting your ways, we are as good as dead.

Leader: We have no recourse but you.

People: If you kept an accounting of sins, who would be left standing?

Leader: But you are forgiveness itself

People: So we place our hope and trust in you. Raise us up to serve you, in Jesus, name. Amen

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord God, only you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.’

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to

the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”

¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

[NRSV]

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to

him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

[NRSV]