

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org) E-mail; (redacted)

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Lent III

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Today, our service will be led by Wes Smith, Andre Pekovich will lead us in song, Ruth Enns will accompany on the piano, and Erika Hannan your usher. Later we will hear from Connie Siedler who will be speaking on Lamentations 3:21-26. *Although 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, we welcome your suggestions for church-provided care if you feel your child is ready for sitting or instruction from one of our many angels who are called to care.* Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee and fellowship.

**Last Sunday** Janice Kreider spoke last Sunday on the faith of Abraham, the progenitor of three world religions. From the regional gods Abraham first knew, to the single voice of God, through to the profound contrariness of God as expressed in Rowan Williams' faith message, this is a God who emphasizes relationships. How did Abraham come to benefit from God's attention? Though in his dealings Abraham sought to give others the benefit, he was also led astray when he passed off his wife as another. So how does Abraham merit the promise shown him in Genesis? The Romans passage from that day makes plain God's method - take those who do not merit it and bless them. Hagar recognizes this when she names the God who saved her and her son Ishmael in the desert as "The God who sees". Though God's promise to modern-day Jews is often seen as one of land, Janice notes that this land is important only symbolically. The land was important in different ways to Abraham, not for his sense of ownership of it, but how it was the site of God's promise to him as progenitor of a people, not owners of a land. Janice wonders if this thought might be used more profitably in recontextualizing modern-day problems in the Middle East. [AP]

## **PGIMF News**

### Upcoming speakers

March 22	Paul Thiessen	Lent IV
March 29	Karl Brown	Lent V/ End of year BBQ
April 5	Gerald Neufeld	Palm Sunday
April 12	Service of singing	Easter Sunday

A NOTE OF THANKS from Hilda to all my friends at PGIMF who have shown such love and care to me during my illness this past winter. I was really touched with all the phone calls, visitations, gifts of delicious food, kind notes and prayers in my behalf when I was stuck at home with a heavy cast on my broken ankle. This past week I am happy to report that I was able to shed my air cast and am now learning to walk again. Gradually I'll gain strength and in time I hope to see you all at church and enjoy your fellowship again. Gratefully - Hilda

Edward is recovering at home from Hip replacement surgery, and is doing well. He and Frieda thank everyone for the many good wishes and prayers they have 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)

☞ Nominations requested for church positions! New attenders are especially welcome nominate others or themselves. Please see Erna Friesen, Andre Pekovich or Henry Neufeld with your suggestions. Now is also the time to start thinking about reports from all church officers for our AGM at the end of April.

### **The Wider Church**

**MBMSI** Rob & Judy Griffioen are MBMS International missionaries in Thailand. Pray for continued diligence in their language studies as it takes many years to learn the language well. Pray also for the Griffioen's Thai friends who are seeking to understand who God is in their lives and what to make of the beliefs they have held onto for so long.

The West Point Grey churches present an ecumenical Lenten Prayer vigil series on Wednesdays at noon for 1/2 hour, each week at a different church in West Point Grey. Here is the schedule of where these services will be held, and the focal topics of prayer:

- Mar 25 St. Helen's (Anglican), 4405 West 8th Ave. -- the homeless
- Apr 1 WPG Baptist Church, 4509 West 11 Ave. -- family brokenness/domestic violence

All are welcome to any and all of these events.

**MCC** The Aboriginal Neighbours program has many resources for you to use as you explore the relationships with our aboriginal neighbours. DVDs, booklets and resource kits give you many options for use with study groups, Sunday School classes or personal use. For details contact Darryl at 1 888 622 6337 toll free or visit <http://www.mcc.org/bc/aboriginalneighbours/resources.html>, or email (available from webmaster)

**1,000 Mennonites for Peace:** This tax season, let your tax forms work for peace instead of paying for war. Watch the video at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/903](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/903). If you are convinced, visit [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/893](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/893) and choose one of two options: declare yourself a Conscience Objector to military taxation (Option A), or do the same and choose to withhold taxes that would otherwise fund military intervention (Option B). Then notify (available from webmaster) (1- 866-888-6785 ext. 108) so we can tally these Acts for Peace. Our goal is to mobilize 1,000 Mennonites to Act for Peace. – *a message from Mennonite Church Canada*

## **Lamentations 3:21-26**

<sup>19</sup>The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
is wormwood and gall!

<sup>20</sup>My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.

<sup>21</sup>But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

<sup>25</sup>The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

<sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

<sup>27</sup>It is good for one to bear  
the yoke in youth,

<sup>28</sup>to sit alone in silence  
when the Lord has imposed it,

<sup>29</sup>to put one's mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope),

<sup>30</sup>to give one's cheek to the smiter,  
and be filled with insults. [NRSV]