

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: info@pgimf.org

March 16th 2014

Lent II

Kevin Hiebert - Journey with Jesus as a Community

Worship leader: Henry Neufeld
Accompanist: Ruth Enns

Song Leader: Veronica Dyck
Usher: Helmut Lemke

Last Sunday Troy Terpstra (MSC resident at Regent College) deconstructed Luke’s story of the centurion from Ch 7:1-10, with words that are uncomfortable to our culture. The centurion, as one under the authority of another, was heart-ready for discipleship to Jesus’s authority, yet we find that a difficult model to follow. We are like children, with all our desires (as American anthropological philosopher Rene Gerard said) being “borrowed desire”; one child, seeing another with a toy, desires no other in the toybox, but the one in the other child’s hands. The desire is not in the toy, but in the “other” - and so for us, our own desire is not in our own goals but in the accomplishments of others. This is not unique to modern times - Shakespeare wrote often of two friends who shared everything but the one thing they were unable to share, and came to grief. So too is it biblical - Cain & Abel, Jacob and Esau, and many more desired what others had, rather than what God ordained. But rather than look upon authority with a military or hierarchical mind, Troy invited us to consider the example of the craftsman, who put himself under the authority of a master to learn a craft, and thus express this craft to God’s glory. Paralleling discipleship, craftsmanship is antithetical to modern advertising, which gives us models for our desire which benefit not ourselves, but the advertisers. God has another path - John 5:19 says “the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing”. Troy noted how this principle is expressed in art; as Troy had never disciplined himself to the authority of a piano teacher, there is no virtue or joy in his playing, despite his freedom from the oppression of musical notation and practicing scales. Peacemaking is just such a craft, and one Christians are uniquely called to practice, just as we practice praying, reading scripture, and eating together. We **are** under authority; let us submit and rejoice in it. [AP]

In an active discussion, Troy responded to a question about peacemaking and spiritual directors with: “With the craftsmanship model, it’s [easy] to talk about it in terms of music or art, but what does it look like when we’re looking for a teacher who is a master in virtue in terms of loving their neighbour or forgiving? We can recognize that fruit and see it as a product of somebody who has ‘done their scales’ so to speak. You may say to a person, ‘I need to learn how to deal with the fact that I hold on to a lot of resentment, and you seem to be free of it!’ -- that didn’t just happen, that person has developed those skills through prayer, through reading the scripture, through another person... If we can recognize forgiveness as the fruit of craft, just like the other things, then I think that’s a worthy person to approach. Naming virtues is the helpful first step for a master-apprentice relationship.” [KH]

PGIMF News

March 23 rd	Marianna Harris	Genesis 12:1-3
March 30 th	Susan Hackett	Faith Development
April 6	Brent Siemens	Lent V
April 13	John Klassen	Palm Sunday

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—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961); *Worship*—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Pastoral Care— Laura & Sven Eriksson (604-946-2345); *Recording Secretary*--- Diane Ehling (604-904-1380);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); *At Large*— Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Travis Martin (604-603-7843);
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Holding our World in Prayer - Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Service

Join the churches of West Point Grey for six weeks of prayer for ourselves, our neighbours and the world during Lent. Each service is held at a different church in West Point Grey on Wednesdays and begins at noon for 30 minutes. Bring your neighbours to this ecumenical time.

- March 19 Our Lady of Perpetual Help (RC) 10th at Crown St.
- March 26 PG Inter-Mennonite Fellowship 11th at Crown St.
- April 2 West Point Grey United 8th at Tolmie St.

 **PGIMF AGM** PGIMF will hold its Annual General Meeting after the service on April 27th, following the pizza lunch. This is the time for all church offices to begin to submit their reports to the Congregational Coordinator for inclusion in the book.

Wider Church

MCC WALK FOR THE RICE REASON Did you know that rice is one of the world's most important food items? Over one half of the world's population depends on rice for health and survival. While many of us in Canada have access to sufficient, nutritious food, millions of people around the world do not. Hunger Response International is hosting A Walk for the Rice Reason, an event to raise awareness and support for the hungry. A bag of rice will be donated to the Abbotsford Food Bank for every completed walk participant. The walk will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. For more information and to register, visit <http://hungerresponse.org/campaigns/have-a-rice-day/have-a-rice-day-on-world-health-day/events>

Regent College The Regent College free public lectures picks up again with Iain Provan speaking on his forthcoming book, *Seriously Dangerous Religion: What the Old Testament Really Says and Why it Matters*. With atheists cherry-picking from the OT for cheap laughs, Provan takes on 10 fundamental questions about the OT and describes in detail why they remain important theologically. A book signing will follow the talk. Tuesday March 25th at 7:30 pm in the Chapel at Regent. Come early for a good seat.

MCBC you are invited to the MCBC Indigenous Relations Fundraising Concert and Storytelling with Brander McDonald. This continues MCBC's work of building healthy and healing relationships with our indigenous neighbours. Dessert and fellowship will follow the event. April 5 at 7:00 pm at Eben Ezer Mennonite Church (2051 Windsor St., Abbotsford). More information available at http://www.mcbc.ca/ai1ec_event/mcbc-indigenous-relations-fundraiser/?instance_id=68

BC MB Conference - just a reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the BC conference of MB Church will be held May 2nd-3rd in Williams Lake. Please see the general e-mail sent out to all for registration information. Delegates wanted.

Mennonite Men an event organized by Youth and Young Adult Pastor Craig Thiessen, invites you to consider who represents the kind of man you want to become 5, 10 20 even 50 years from now, or whether you are the type of person that young Christian men seek to be like. An exploration on becoming the man you want to be, and being the man others want to become. May 17th, from 8:00 am - 11:30 am, breakfast included at Peace Mennonite Church (11571 Daniels Rd, Richmond). Please reply to Clarence Yip at clarenceyip@msn.com. \$35

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who

curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. [NRSV]

Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore. [NRSV]

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you

a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [NRSV]