

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

February 21st, 2010
1st Sunday of Lent

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service this Sunday will be led by Diane Ehling; we will be led in song by Veronica Dyck, accompanied by Ruth Enns, and Erna Friesen will be your usher. Later we will hear from Evan Kreider who will be speaking from Luke 4:1-3, and afterward, communion will be served. Please join us in the lounge after the service for coffee and fellowship. *Parents with small children, please note that arrangements have been made for child-minding on the second and last Sundays of each month, and you are invited to contact any other parent in the service, or any member of the church board for more information.*

Last Sunday On St Valentine's Day, Karl Brown offered parables illustrating differing approaches to serious engineering problems. For example, why is it that something as commonplace as the household toilet ever fail to do its job properly? Everybody knows this happens, so why have so many engineer-designers overlooked these ubiquitous flaws? In order for any design to work flawlessly, engineers must discover and admit that mistakes have been made in their designs, isolate the flaws, repeatedly correcting and testing them. If the engineer-designer look the other way, the problems continue. By contrast, one of the inventors of the personal computer admitted his initial mistakes publicly rather than veiling them (he published and distributed them with the subsequent model). 2 Cor. 3.12- speaks of people having "veils" over their minds when reading scripture. Even today, our minds can be "veiled" when thinking about things. Who will lift our veils? How do we lift our own veils, see our flaws, accept where we are wrong, stop hiding behind our veils of denial and instead accept good criticism with much thought? Perhaps recent problems with cars can serve as metaphors for our lives--refusing to admit there are serious problems until critics force the problem into the open. [JEK]

PGIMF News

Upcoming speakers

February 28	Charis Weathers	Lent II
March 7	Janice Kreider	Lent III
March 14	Barb Nickel	Lent IV
March 21	Dallas Michayluk	Lent V

☺**Potluck!** Potluck lunch next week! Bring as you are led...and please bring enough for everyone and a little extra! Guests always welcome - don't forget to invite them!

The Wider Church

MBMSI Ron & Betty Russell support and encourage MBMSI missionaries through their visits. Praise God for the many meaningful encounters they have had in Asia and Europe this past year. Pray for continued vision and discernment as they seek God's direction for this coming year as to which missionaries He is leading them to visit. Pray for wisdom and understanding as they prepare material for an expanded teaching role in our ministry.

Thanks for Prayer request Lisa-Dawn gives thanks that her grandmother is now at home recuperating after her bad fall down the stairs. She has continuing care and homemaker assistance, and continues to enjoy life.

Prayer request

Lynn (Henry & Tena's niece) has been diagnosed with lymphoma. Lynn and her husband Mark live in Saanich. Lynn requests our congregation's prayers.

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)

MCC The people of BC have given over a million dollars to MCC's earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. That amount will be matched 1:1 by CIDA. If you are still looking for opportunities to give, MCC is gathering heavy blankets, flat sheets and Relief Kits until the end of February, which will then be shipped to Haiti. For more information on all of these, visit mcc.org/haitiearthquake

West Point Grey Lenten Prayer Vigils 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 and a different focus of prayer. Below is the schedule of services.

Feb 24 - noon	WPG United Church, 4595 W. 8th Ave. <i>Hope in the Midst of Change: The Future of the Church</i>
Mar 3 - noon	Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Catholic), 2465 Crown St. <i>"Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" Matt. 20:22</i>
Mar 10 - noon	WPG Baptist Church, 4509 W. 11 Ave. <i>The Cross Not Taken</i>
Mar 17 - noon	WPG Presbyterian, 4397 W. 12th Ave. <i>The Work of KAIROS</i>
Mar 24 - noon	Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship, 4000 W. 11th Ave. <i>Prayer for Haiti</i>

All welcome to attend any or all sessions.

MCC BC Employment & Community Development (ECD) is seeking two experienced professionals to join our employment team as Job Search Facilitators in our Richmond office. If you are passionate about walking alongside people and seeing them succeed, it could be you we are looking for to fill one of these positions. For a detailed job description and instructions on how to apply, visit our website at www.findingyourway.ca <http://www.findingyourway.ca> Please click on the Careers tab at the top of the page to find the posting.

Please be in prayer for Chad's wife Maureen, their children Monica and Catherine, and both extended families. Chad, 52 yrs old passed away last Sunday from a sudden heart attack. Maureen's family has lost both sons-in-law suddenly this year past. Please also pray for the Church as Chad was their chair, and this leaves them with a serious loss to overcome.

Regent College invites you to attend the Regent Marketplace Conference for this year, *God and the Global Economy: Protestant Responses to Caritas in Veritate* with special guests Stephen Long, Paul Mills, Paul Oslington, Fr. Raymond deSouza, Emile Van Velsen, and others. Here, some of the best thinkers and practitioners in international political economy and theology to respond to the Pope's encyclical to bring some of its critical insights and problems into Protestant focus. There will be an emphasis on both theological and theoretical reflection on the one hand, and policy

development, institutional design and implementation on the other. April 16-17, 2010, cost \$195, \$160 Seniors/Alumni. \$120 students. Early bird registration til March 19. More information available at <http://conferences.regent-college.edu/globaleconomy/> or at 604-224-3245

Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service is holding its **Annual General Meeting** and banquet at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford on Saturday, March 13 at 6 pm. The speaker is Jim Coggins, Associate Editor of B.C. Christian News and writer of mystery stories, and music is by the Peregrinos of Ebenezer Church. For tickets to the banquet (\$12.50) contact Linda Matties at (available from webmaster), or Ed Janzen at (available from webmaster). If you are not coming to the banquet, come hear Jim Coggins at no cost.

MCBC Churches MCBC has launched its new website and all church names and addresses have been ported over from the old website. Watch www.mcbc.ca for more information, details, weekly announcements and blogs.

TARA'S FUND

In September 2008 Scott, Youth Pastor and friend to many in the BCMB, passed away leaving Tara and three young sons alone. Tara has been courageous in dealing with this loss and the realities of raising her sons alone. She has been wonderfully supported by the neighborhood church in the city where she lives. Tara's immediate and ongoing challenge is how to support herself and the family. As a stay-at-home mom she has taken the initiative to provide a supplement to her small income through an international student living in her home. As a BCMB Conference we have been considering an appropriate way to help her. In conversation with Tara and neighborhood church, we have agreed that it would be very helpful to make a lump-sum payment to reduce the principle on her home mortgage. The BCMB Executive Board has made the first contribution to this and we are now inviting individuals and churches to consider joining us in this caring response. We can issue a tax receipt for individual contributions. We will be receiving funds from now until May 4, 2010 at the conclusion of our Convention and Pastors & Spouses Retreat. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Marilyn at the office at (available from webmaster).

Luke 4:1-3

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus

answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. [NRSV]

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he

became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house. [NRSV]

Psalms 91

¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
²will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”
³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
⁸You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation. [NRSV]

Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the

mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” [NRSV]

Prayer read responsively

From the Easter oration of St. Gregory the Theologian, 4th century

[Men]

Yesterday I was crucified with him;
Yesterday I died with him;
Yesterday I was buried with him;
Let us offer ourselves to him
Let us become divine for his sake,
He assumed the worse that he might
give us the better.

He accepted the form of a servant
He came down
He was tempted
He was dishonoured
He died
He ascended

Let us give all, offer all, to him

We needed an incarnate God,
a God put to death,

We were put to death together with him
We rose again with him
We were glorified with him
A few drops of blood

Leader 2 The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader 1 And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always--especially during these last five weeks of Lent. Amen

Leader 2 Go now in peace. May God's peace proceed you, be with you, and surround you this day and always.

All Amen.

[Women]

today I am glorified with him.
today I am made alive in him.
today I am raised up with him.
who suffered and rose again for us.
since for us he became human.

He became poor, that by his poverty we
might become rich.
that we might win back our freedom.
that we might be lifted up.
that through him we might conquer.
that he might glorify us.
that he might save us.
that he might draw us to himself, we who
were thrown down through the fall of sin.
who gave himself a ransom and reconciliation
for us.

that we might live.
that we might be cleansed.
because we were put to death with him.
because we rose again with him.
recreate the whole of creation!