

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. Our service this Sunday will be led by Janice Kreider; we will be led in song by Evan Kreider, accompanied by Ruth Enns, and Edward Epp will be your usher. Later we will hear from Jeanette Hanson whose talk is entitled *Fear Not - God is Building God's Kingdom* from Isaiah 43, Acts 8 and Luke 3. *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 January 3rd, 2010, Henry Neufeld spoke on the general theme of prophecy. Both the Jewish and Christian canons of scripture consider prophets and prophecy to be very important. For example, in Hebraic scriptures, Jeremiah is portrayed as a vociferous critic of government, of its economic and foreign policies and of institutionalized religion. Jeremiah felt led to make dramatic gestures which enlarged his audiences and got the attention of the wealthy who held the power in his society. He smashed earthen pots before officials, prophesying that a similar fate awaited those listening to him. Each of his actions is portrayed as a parable for his society, telling them about justice, peace, social ills and reminding them of their obligations to the poor. New Testament writers continued to revere prophets such as John the Baptizer, another critic of both the wealthy and those seeking to retain laws and political parties which would hopefully protect their privileged position and property holdings. Prophecy is listed as one of the truly important spiritual gifts, but where are the prophetic voices of today, voices which speak to the dominant culture, articulating ideas which will invariably upset middle class Christians and non-Christians alike? What voices are trying to arouse us to action over police violence, our military presence in Afghanistan, Vancouver's forcefully relocating our homeless people for a sporting event, or churches spending vast sums of charitable donations on legal battles? Why do these voices come from outside the church rather than from believers? Is prophecy within the church now dead? [JEK]

## PGIMF News

### Upcoming speakers

January 17	Rebecca Stanley	Urban Journey and Student Ministry
January 24	Paul Thiessen	Lectionary texts
January 31	Laura Ericsson	Love (1 Cor. 13) - Potluck/Congregational mtg
February 7	John Konrad	Mood disorders and the church's response

## The Wider Church

**MBMSI** Mark & Amy Klassen are working in a restricted country with MBMS International. This month they will be joined by four people who have just completed Missionary Training in Abbotsford and who feel that God is calling them to the same city. Please pray for this team as they interact together for the first time.

**NOTICE** PGIMF church board meeting on Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Menno Simons Centre - meet in the lounge.

**Regent College** Come see the new exhibit by Dan Steeves who returns to the Lookout Gallery at Regent College with his exhibit entitled *Tantramar Gothic*, on an Eastern Canadian oeuvre. Show runs from January 14 - March 1 with an opening reception Thursday, January 14, from 4:30-7:30pm

## **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)

**Faithqwest 2010 - Found in Translation.** Putting the 'text' into 'context' is the theme of this year's FaithQwest at Peace Church January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. This year's talks by Rad and Pat Houphan (moderated by Henry Neufeld), Jonathan Neufeld (Seattle MC) and Vic Thiessen (London Mennonite Centre) with a keynote address from Jeanette Hanson all the way from China. Participate in the discussion about how the Word of God can be found in translation through the Spirit of God working through God's people. Register (\$30 at the door) at Peace Church at 604-940-3368 or online at [www.lanternsofhope.com/FaithQwest/index.html](http://www.lanternsofhope.com/FaithQwest/index.html) for your choice of workshop.

**Camp Squeah** The Camp is engaged in a planning process, beginning with a survey to develop a sustainable direction and strategy for the coming 3-5 years with the help of a Royal Roads University student in the Master of Business Administration program. To reach a broad scope of consumers, members, associates and key stakeholders an on-line survey has been created. You are invited to participate in this survey which should take approximately 10-15 minutes. The web link can be found at the Camp Squeah website <http://www.squeah.com/home/>. The survey will be available from January 9- 25, 2010. If you are not directed to the on-line survey you can connect with Gerry Dyble, student, at [dyble@telus.net](mailto:dyble@telus.net) for further information. Your support in this survey is greatly appreciated.

**2010 Young Adult Retreat!** Feb 5-7 at Camp Squeah. Join other Mennonite Church BC young adults (roughly ages 18-30) for a weekend of relaxation, fun, and conversation on the theme "Green Jesus? Sustainability and Creation Care." The cost for the weekend is \$90, come for all or part of the weekend as you are able. Email [Tim.Larson@squeah.com](mailto:Tim.Larson@squeah.com) to register by Friday, Jan 22.

### **MB Herald Creative Arts Contest**

Calling all MB writers, artists, and photographers - it's the MB Herald creative arts contest! We invite you to submit your short stories, humour, poetry, artwork, or photography (on any subject) to the MB Herald. We're looking for creativity, excellence, and originality. Winning entries will appear in our 2010 summer reader. Prizes will be awarded for the most outstanding entries. Submission deadline is May 17, 2010. Please submit original entries or high resolution computer files, along with a short bio and your contact information, to (available from webmaster) or 1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, Man., R3M 3Z6. For more information, call Laura Kalmar or Karla Braun at 888-669-6575 or 204-669-6575.

### **Acts 8: 14-17**

<sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. <sup>6</sup> The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.

<sup>9</sup> Now a certain man named Simon had previously practised magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. <sup>10</sup> All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, 'This man is the power of God that is called Great.' <sup>11</sup> And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, 'Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' <sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! <sup>21</sup> You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.' <sup>24</sup> Simon answered, 'Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.'

[NRSV]

## Isaiah 43: 1-3a, 5-7

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,

and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.' [NRSV]

## Luke 3: 15-22

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had

been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

### *The Baptism of Jesus*

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' [NRSV]

### In Memoriam

**Peter J. Dyck** – storyteller, Mennonite pastor, author and lifelong servant to people in need around the world – died of cancer on Monday, Jan. 4, 2010. He was 95 years old. Dyck, who lived in Scottdale, Pa., is well known in Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and Amish communities throughout Canada, Europe, Paraguay and the United States, especially for his work with Mennonite Russian refugees and with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Dyck and his family were rescued by food shipments sent from Mennonites in Canada and the United States, a kindness he would not forget after his family, including eight siblings, fled Russia and settled in Saskatchewan. During World War II, he served with MCC in England. Motivating his decision to work with MCC was his memory of the food aid he received as a child through a newly formed MCC. In 1944, he married Elfrieda Klassen, a nurse who also was serving with MCC in England. She too was a Russian refugee who moved to Canada. In 1946, the Dycks set up refugee camps in Germany for thousands of Mennonites who had fled the Soviet Union. Over time, they led 5,500 Mennonites by boat to South America, predominantly Paraguay. Further work in Europe, north Africa and Merica with a variety of organizations interspersed with pastoring congregations in Kansas and Pennsylvania rounded out his full life. A complete memorial is available on-line at <http://mcc.org/stories/news/peter-dyck>