

# POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship and thank you for coming to celebrate Christ's birth with us. Today we will be led in worship by Rosie Perera, in song by Edwin Hintz, Deberah Shears will accompany on the piano, and your usher will be Hilda Unger. Later we will hear from Johannes Stolz, who will sermon is entitled "Pluralism and the Revealed Truth". 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. You are all welcome to join us in the dining room after the service for coffee and fellowship.

**Last Sunday** For Epiphany Sunday 2008 we welcomed two long-standing friends into membership, Rosie Perera and Karl Brown. Epiphany celebrates seeking. King Herod was a seeker of sorts, dabbling in various religions while constantly living in fear of losing his political power. The Magi were avid (possibly even professional) seekers, traveling extensively in order to get answers. Joseph and Mary can also be thought of as seekers, for their faith led them to immigrate suddenly to Egypt, possibly to Alexandria which then had more Jews than did Jerusalem. Karl and Rosie are also seekers, and have been seeking along with us for about a decade. Rosie told of her spiritual journey (raised by a Quaker father and Episcopalian mother who turned to the charismatic movement). Although Rosie's seeking took various turns, including a respite from church while in university, she was drawn back to religion by her interest in the Psalms. After joining Microsoft in Seattle, she found a superb Presbyterian congregation to which she still relates. She later moved to Vancouver in order to attend Regent College. Finding PGIMF, largely because it was within walking distance, she was immediately attracted to the fellowship's singing, open discussions, potlucks, people and their commitment to a lay-led fellowship. Rosie is active with what Henry Neufeld called her 'e-mail ministry' and photography, relating various aspects of her life to faith. Karl's story started in Winnipeg, and includes a broken family, being raised by various people, having his young faith be destroyed at a Catholic boarding school where he observed adults professing but not practicing faith. He was baptized as an infant, then again as a Mormon (at the request of his mother), and finally as a Mennonite at Mountainview. Karl expressed deep appreciation for the friends he has found at PGIMF, for being encouraged to contribute to the worship in various ways, and for what he has gained by associating with us. The morning's service concluded with Karl and Rosie serving communion, using Karl's Zinfandel wine and two loaves of bread they made for this special Sunday. [JEK]

## PGIMF News

### **Upcoming speakers**

January 20	Randy Schmidt	International Child Care - Haiti
January 27	Janet Boldt	-
February 3	Janice Kreider	-
February 10	Rosie Perera	The Lord's Supper - Lent I


**New e-mail address** Janet Boldt has a new e-mail address. You can reach her at (redacted).

### **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)

**PGIMF Congregational Meeting** on Sunday  
January 27<sup>th</sup> after potluck lunch.

 **Ecumenical service** to celebrate the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity, January 20-27, 2008. This service will be January 27 at 4pm at West Point Grey United Church (4595 West 8th Ave.), followed immediately by an early potluck supper in their fellowship hall. Everyone from all six churches in West Point Grey is invited. The theme is "Pray Without Ceasing." Each church is asked to contribute something to the service from their particular tradition of prayer such as Anglican litany, Baptists extemporaneous prayer, United Church praying with the corporeal body, and it was suggested that we Mennonites might offer congregational singing as a mode of prayer from our tradition. Please talk it over with Rosie, especially if you plan to attend. Please support our neighbours in our WPG community!

### **The Wider Church**

**MCC** January 22, 2008 7 pm: David W. Shenk, global missions consultant for Eastern Mennonite Mission will be giving a public address at the Columbia Bible College Chapel titled: The Gospel of Reconciliation and the World of Islam in Dynamic Engagement. Admission is free. For more information call Jon Nofziger at (604) 850 6639, 1 888 622 6337 or email (redacted). Sponsored by MCC BC and FaithQuest.

**MBMSI** Pray today for Mel and Gudrun Warkentin, MBMS International workers in Paraguay. They are rejoicing at the end of the IBI (Indian Bible Institute) school year which saw 5 students complete the 3-year program. Pray for them as they will be visiting indigenous churches with these students, now beginning their own ministries. They ask us also to pray for rain. This has been a long, hard year of drought.

**Mennonite Church BC financial update.** The Conference would like to thank all MCBC Churches for your prayers throughout 2007, and for your faithful financial support. We no longer have a deficit for 2007 and we thank all of you as well as our individual donors for your financial donations. May God bless you all as you plan for 2008 and beyond.

**Public lecture** *Contemplation in a World of Terror: Bonhoeffer and Merton on Faith and Violence.* In a time when religion is seen as the source of terror and violence, we forget that thoughtful, reflective belief remains the only viable bulwark against inhumanity. Lynn Szabo and Jens Zimmermann will discuss two Christians who have thought deeply about religion in turbulent times, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Thomas Merton. Thurs. Jan. 17, 2008, 7:30 pm at the Vancouver Public Library: Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street. Lynn Szabo is Associate Professor and Chair of the English Department at Trinity Western University. Professor Jens Zimmermann is Canada Research Chair in Interpretation, Religion, and Culture at Trinity Western University. Everyone welcome! Info: 604-669-2546 or email (redacted) or see [www.merton.ca](http://www.merton.ca).

### From Lois Siemens in sunny Saskatchewan.

We are looking forward to the Prairie Winds Worship and Music Retreat on January 18-20 at the Shekinah Retreat Centre in Saskatchewan. It's not too late to register! Workshops will include "Honoring Scripture in our Worship" with Arlyn Friesen Epp from Mennonite Church Canada Resource Center; "Embodying the Story: allowing the body and the voice to be ready for the story" with Allan Rudy Froese from Ontario; Children's Worship with dramatist/storyteller Heidi Epp Yusuf from Richmond, BC; Working with the visual arts in worship with Karmen Krahn from Swift Current who has worked with many of our Leader Advent/Lent materials; Working with congregations in music with Marilyn Houser Hamm. Our Plenary address will feature Marilyn Houser Hamm working with "Sing the Story," Biblical story telling and Simply Superb and the Wheatbelt Parables. We are excited to offer this time of music, worship, & training.

**Regent College** A new display will be opening in the Art Gallery at Regent College. Come see Irene Kordalis Pedersen's works entitled The Psalms running January 14 – February 14, 2008, with opening reception on Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30–7:30pm. Free admission.

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## FaithQwest

Today is the last day for registration in the Portable CMU - courses start next week! Please call or e-mail Andre to register. Keynote speaker - David Shenk formerly of EMU. Please see the usher for brochures and register TODAY!

For "Film Night", the film Gordon Matties has chosen for FaithQwest is "Pearl Diver". Here is a plot summary.

What would you give for the people you love? Your hopes, dreams? Your life? Is it possible to give too much of yourself? These are the questions that the characters struggle with in Pearl Diver, the feature film debut of writer/director Sidney King.

Pearl Diver is the story of two sisters, how they are haunted by the twenty-year old murder of their mother, and what happens when a farming accident rips away the layers of secrecy and buried trauma surrounding that night

Marian is a young mother who lives in the Mennonite farming community where she grew up,

while her younger sister Hannah left the community to pursue a writing career in Chicago.

When Marian's six-year old daughter Rebecca is badly injured in a farming accident, Hannah returns home to help. As the two sisters struggle with the circumstances surrounding Rebecca's accident and how to pay for her medical treatment, their opposing worldviews drive them towards a penultimate confrontation and reconciliation over their shared past, a past that simultaneously divides them yet binds them together. What they learn is that sometimes the secrets from the past can bring hope for the future.

## John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. [NRSV]

**Pluralism**  
Freedom  
(Dignity of choice)

**Absolute Truth**  
Norm  
(Transcendent standard)

Pluralism

Absolute Truth

Pluralism

Absolute Truth

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