

## POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

March 7, 2004

*The Second Sunday of Lent*

**Today:** Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by John Friesen; Ann Marie Neudorf will be leading us in song and Cynthia Friesen will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Jeff Imbach who will be speaking on Spiritual Disciplines. Kary Garden and Angela Ekkert are in charge of Sunday School, and Hannelore Schowalter and Nadine Neudorf will be with the preschoolers and toddlers. Please stay with us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

**Last Sunday:** J. Evan Kreider took four texts from the Lectionary (an exercise Evan enjoys for its connection with the larger Christian community) to inspire us to engage in the Lenten season with his talk “You enter the garden by going through the wilderness/desert.” In Dt 26:1-11 the wandering Armenian, the ancestor of all who follow God, one who never blended into the culture but kept himself distinct gives us our first image of wandering the desert to enter the garden. This echoes the wanderings of the Jewish people in the process of forming their own nation. In Ps 9:9-16, through words of action, the psalmist echoes God’s promise to the Jews as reward for their purposeful wandering. Rom 10:8-13 tells of the wandering of Christians in the “wilderness” of Rome - there was no city so estranged from devotion to godly living as Rome. Yet this passage too promises that those who wandered the wilderness will be saved. And in Luke 4:1-13, we are told of three of the many temptations Jesus passed, ones that his Jewish ancestors failed. This forty days that Jesus went through has inspired Christians through history to emulate this fasting in order to achieve spiritual perfection, yet nowadays we consider it more important to diet to achieve physical perfection. Through manna, through tests, through history, the Jews in the wilderness were taught that it is not food that keeps you alive, but the word of God. Evan asks – are you willing to wander the desert in order to enter the garden? This quote from James Healy inspires: “Of this we can be sure - God walked there first... We do not face it alone Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must, if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.” [AP]

### PGIMF News:

Please join us for pre-service hymn singing at 9:45 as we work our way through the book from 1 to 658.

**More Errata (sigh)** The Schneidereits old phone number crept back into the phone directory.

**Call for Nominations** In preparation for the PGIMF Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the nominations committee is seeking to fill several church offices. There is a list of positions to be filled in your mailboxes. Please take some time to consider if you or someone you know is admirably suited to one of them and don’t hesitate to put names forward. And...please don’t run when we tap you on the shoulder

**Ukrainian Easter Eggs** Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall if you wish to learn the fine art of making those incredibly detailed Ukrainian Easter Eggs with Louise Klippenstein. Louise has been running these workshops in her home for many years, and many PGIMF families have her to thank for the beautiful decorations in their homes. March 7, 14 and 28.

*Moderator*—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);  
*Pastoral Care*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Eric Hannan (604-325-5065)  
*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

## Upcoming speakers

March 14	Steve Hochstettler	Lent III
March 21	J. Evan Kreider	Tribute to Bert McGee
March 28	Walter Bergen	Lent V
April 4	Paul Thiessen	Lent VI

## The Wider Church

**BC Women in Mission** This year's Annual Inspirational Day will take place on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, 7155 Sherbrooke Street, Vancouver. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m., but registration, a coffee corner and displays will open at 1:30 p.m. The afternoon will conclude with supper served by Sherbrooke Church at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 per person. This is the 65<sup>th</sup> year of BC Women in Mission. Please see the bulletin board in the hall for more information on the program and contacts to register.

**MDS** Los Angeles MDS project is looking for volunteers on two inner city Mennonite churches on March 18 — 29. Please contact Harold Neufeldt @ 604.738.5684 or [e-mail available by request]. Note: no construction skills needed - just a desire to work with Harold and other Norte Americanos in fulfilling Edward's call to volunteerism.

**Gallery 7** It's time to book your tickets for Gallery 7's annual spring production, set to open on March 12. Driving Miss Daisy by Alfred Uhry tells the story of an unlikely friendship forged amidst social chaos. It's a play the entire family will enjoy! To book your tickets for this production please call us at 604-504-5922 or click here: <http://www.gallery7theatre.com/season/boxoffice.html> All productions are held in the Eben-Ezer Church Drama Center, 2051 Windsor Street, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

**CMU News Release** It is with great sadness that the Canadian Mennonite University community recently learned of a tragedy involving two fatalities. Diane Kroeker of Winnipeg and Walter Goertz, of Richmond, B.C., drowned yesterday (Sunday, February 29) while swimming in the Pacific Ocean, during a travel tour to Guatemala. They were near Coatepeque, on the coast of Guatemala. Both families have been notified of the tragedy. Diane Kroeker, 60, was the tour administrator and also served as the administrator for the Outtatown program (formerly School of Discipleship). She is survived by husband Irvin, who was present on the tour, and three grown daughters. Walter Goertz, 77, was a tour participant and is survived by his wife, Anne, who was also present on the tour. They were part of the Adventure for the Soul Adult Tour, organized by the Outtatown program of Canadian Mennonite University, a program for those aged 30 and older. The group was midway through a two-week tour to Guatemala to study local history and work with local churches on service projects.

**MCC** "One last thing we want to encourage you to do is to continue to pray for Haiti as the various elements involved in the conflict meet together to figure out how to maintain peace and govern the country after the departure of Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Sunday, Feb. 29. MCC Country Co-Representative Edwin Dening says, "All of our national staff and partners are safe as far as we can ascertain for now . . . We have had lots of excitement and stress this past week and it feels like a month of time has passed instead of six days! We want to thank everyone for their prayers, and we pray for peace for Haiti." MCC supports reforestation, health, education and water projects as well as human rights work. MCC has worked in Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, since 1958. For updated information on Haiti and MCC's work there visit: <http://www.mcc.org/areaserv/latinamerica/haiti/turmoil.html>

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