

## POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org)

March 3, 2019

### Thomas Bergen - Mark series: Jesus, the Teaching One

**Worship Leader:** Travis Martin  
**Accompanist:** J. Evan Kreider

**Music Worship:** J. Evan Kreider  
**Usher:** Edward Epp

**Last Sunday** Dori Zerbe Cornelsen, Director of Development for Canadian Mennonite University and former PGIMFer, spoke on Luke 6:27–38, a favourite Anabaptist passage which instructs us to be different from just about everybody else in the world by actually treating "others as you would like people to treat you." Some modern politicians prefer that we view 'the others' as our enemies, that we objectify people instead of learning to know those who angrily protest against our views. As part of his upside-down approach to Kingdom, Jesus radically asks that we not think of anybody as being 'the others' or even as our enemies, but instead "love", "do good to", "bless", and "pray for" those who do not agree with our world view."

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/not-simple-at-all/>

#### PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

March 10	Membership Sunday	
March 17	Kevin Hiebert	Perfectly Placed Artifacts
March 24	Heather Murray	A Modern Pilgrim
March 31	Speaker wanted	

**Abendmusik Vespers Choir** come hear the Lenten Vespers, an hour of contemplative music and worship for the Lenten soul March 9<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Free Reformed Church (3386 Mt. Lehman Rd, Abbotsford) and March 10 at St. Philip's Anglican Church (3737 W. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver). Services begin at 7:30 pm.

**PGIMF Church Retreat** The retreat team is composed of Diane, Chan, Sara, Madison, Andre, Rosie and Curtis with each willing to help out with various aspects of creating and running the retreat. The theme is "Peace It Together" sharing art, poetry, weaving, etc. and will feature something from the Friday group, and a folk dancing event Sat. night. Please contribute your ideas to any member of the team.

**Blanket Exercise - gauging interest** Lydia Crutwell of Peace on 52<sup>nd</sup> Church is coordinating a presentation of the Blanket exercise, an emotional and representational history of the conversion of Tutle Island from the common property of all inhabitants of North America before European contact, to a welter of land titles and interests, political fiefdoms and clan battlegrounds with emphasis on its impact on original inhabitants. To be led by an expert presenter, Lydia is gauging interest among the Vancouver churches for an event to be held some evening or weekend between Caster Sunday and Victoria Day. If you would like to attend this event, please express your interest to Janice who will collect the information and pass it along to Lydia.

**Snow announcement** You are reminded to check your e-mail by 8:30 on Sunday mornings when snow is expected or has fallen, to find out if the service has been cancelled. The worship leader for each Sunday will be responsible for checking the conditions (walks shovelled, road conditions, etc.) in the area of the church with an appropriate person (residence coordinators or other church members in West Point Grey) and will "call off" the service as decided in their sole discretion.

**Pastor's Lunch** PGIMF is hosting the monthly MCBC Pastor's Lunch on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. PGIMF attenders are welcome to assist in putting on this lunch with their contributions and help in setting up and cleaning up. There is an offer for soup, so bread will be welcome.

#### RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we 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 not be recorded.

Moderator—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Worship—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);  
Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); Recording Secretary--- Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);  
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**—Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);  
Finance — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); Congregational Co-ordinator — Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

## Menno Simons Centre Residence Coordinators On the Move!

Thomas and Cara Bergen have informed the PCDA that they will be moving to Edmonton this summer, where she will begin her residency for family practice on July 1st. Many of you will remember that the Bergens were residents at Menno for two years, often attending PGIMF. During their five years as Residence Coordinators, although Thomas was also worked part-time as music coordinator at another church, he frequently returned to PGIMF to give another in his series of sermons or to join us in singing Handel's Messiah.

Few couples have understood the nature and spirit of the Menno Simons Centre's work in Student Ministry as well as have they. During their tenure, student life and activities have flourished, the facility has been wonderfully maintained, and Thomas and his father even transformed a large student room on the main floor into two individual rooms, enabling an additional student to experience Menno. Thomas has been writing a book telling of their years at Menno and what its communal Christian life has meant to students over the years.

We at PGIMF send Thomas and Cara with our blessing and very best wishes. [Evan]

**CCMBC thanks PGIMF for donations** PGIMF designated its donation to the Canadian MB Conference in 2018 to two places. One is the International Community of Mennonite Brethren known as ICOMB. They sent a handwritten note: "Dear Point Grey, Thank you for your support in 2018. You are a blessing to your global MB family! In Christ, Rebekah for Rudi Plett." You can read a summary of what ICOMB is doing on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. The second designation went to the MB Biblical Seminary. Quoting from their letter: Your generosity...helped us launch the ACTS World Campus, embark on a new Missional Leadership Training ministry with MB Mission (Multiply), and partner with an increasing number of Teaching Churches across Canada.

### Wider Church

**Regent College** invites you to the next noon-time free public lecture with Dr Mary McCampbell speaking on how apocalyptic tales fascinate our culture in their drive for epiphany and revelation in a lecture entitled "This is the Way the World Ends: The Apocalypse in Contemporary Film, Fiction and Television". Q&A follows the lecture. Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at noon in Room 100 at Regent College.

**West Point Grey Lenten Prayer Series** You are invited to celebrate the Lenten season with six noon-time periods of reflection and prayer of 30 minutes followed by a simple lunch at the hosting congregations:

- March 6 VST Epiphany Chapel (6030 Chancellor Blvd, UBC)
- March 13 St Helen's Anglican (4405 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver)
- March 20 West Point Grey United (4595 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver)
- March 27 St. Anselm's Anglican (5210 University Blvd, UBC)
- April 3 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic (2465 Crown St., Vancouver)
- April 10 West Point Grey Baptist (4509 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver)

**BCMB Annual Convention** Registration now open for the BCMB annual gathering to be held April 26-27 at Willow Park Church, Kelowna. Come to do the business of the church and hear about multiplying churches at the all day business events, celebration services and dinners. Meet Elton DaSilva, National Director of CCMBC who will host a discussion on the new National Ministry model with time for Q&A - this event open to all. For details and to register, see <https://bcmb.org/event/bcmb-convention/>

**MCC-BC** The End Abuse Program of MCC BC is sponsoring a training event for pastors, counsellors, students, support workers and advocates. Understanding Abuse in Relationships will take place March 8, 9 & 10, 2019 at the MCC Centre, Abbotsford. For more information, call Elsie Goerzen, 604-845-0841, or email [endabuse@mccbc.ca]

**Mennonite Heritage Museum** The MHM invites you to the book launch of The Diary of Emma Mollmann from 1914 to 1923. This story of the life of PGIMFer Janet Boldt's grandmother (who called Janet "soulmate") was translated by Peter Neudorf and Barbara Boldt. Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Museum (1818 Clearbrook Rd., Abbotsford) and you can buy your copy of the book there as well.

**An Evening with John Brierley: The Camino – a Path of Awakening** The Canadian Company of Pilgrims invites everyone interested in the spiritual aspects of the Camino de Santiago to an evening with John Brierley, author of the most popular English language guide books on the Camino. March 10, 2019 @ 7:00 pm at Shaughnessy Heights United Church (1550 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Vancouver). Admission \$15. More information at <https://www.santiago.ca/>

**Mennonite Heritage Museum** invites you to a free lecture with one-time PGIMFer Brian Froese entitled "Church Business: Negotiating Mennonite Identity and Economy in Post-War British Columbia" at Level Ground Church (31216 King Rd, Abbotsford) featuring special music and refreshments. Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. All welcome.

## Mark 4:1-20

<sup>1</sup>Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. <sup>2</sup>He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup>Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold. <sup>9</sup>And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; <sup>12</sup>in order that

"they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." '

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup>The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup>These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>16</sup>And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup>And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup>but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>20</sup>And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' [NRSV]

## Call to Worship

We are Jesus' disciples,  
following him even as he moves toward the cross.

**Even as he wraps a towel around his waist.  
Even as he kneels to wash the filth from the feet of his friends.**

We are Jesus' disciples,  
longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark.

**Even as betrayers loom.  
Even as the powers that oppose the way of Christ press in around us.**

We are Jesus' disciples,  
struggling to love others even as Jesus loved us.

**We are Jesus' disciples,  
gathered here to worship God:  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.  
Amen.**