



CAMP SQUEAH News!



Mennonite Church
British Columbia
visit www.mcbc.ca

A News & Notes Special

January - March 2012

WHAT IS MCBC AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

A Q&A about Mennonite Church BC providing you all the answers to those questions you've been dying to ask

Welcome! As it turns out, only a small percentage of the MCBC Church population knows what MCBC's purpose is, or in many cases, what it even stands for. With the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Lead Conference (LEAD) approaching, we thought it high time to inform the people! You may be reading this and already asking yourself, 'AGM? LEAD? MCBC? WOE (What on Earth?!)?! Why are there so many acronyms? And you are right, MCBC, why SHOULD I care?' And excellent question and one we plan to answer, let's begin:

Q: What is MCBC?

A: Mennonite Church British Columbia. In a nut shell, it's a denomination of 31 congregations in BC. The churches themselves make up MCBC, not just the administrative offices that this newsletter comes out of.

Q: Well what does the administrative office do?

A: The administrative office provides essential clerical tasks such as managing property insurance for the congregations, benefit plans for church staff, video licensing, etc.. The office also facilitates pastoral care, assists in helping congregations hire and train pastors, works on building pastor/congregation relationships as well as community and connectedness between the congregations in the denomination. Additionally, MCBC helps congregations plan and launch church plants.

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2012

Celebrate with us!

For 50 years, Camp Squeah has been a place of refuge in a natural setting where people of all ages can build relationships, grow and be nurtured – this has all been possible because of God who loves us and calls us. We want to celebrate God's goodness and invite you to do this with us! Here's how:

- **NOW!** Sign up for summer camp! This is the heart of Squeah: a summer getaway exploring your faith in the beauty of God's creation. Register on line or pick up a brochure at your church.
- **April 14-15:** Support the annual Paddle-a-thon. Summer camp couldn't happen without the dedicated young people who make up our staff each year. The Paddle-a-thon supports our bursary fund, enabling returning students to spend their summers with us. Paddle with us, sponsor a paddler, or volunteer with our ground crew.
- **July 21:** Celebrate with us! Join us for a day of sharing all the memories and blessings that we have enjoyed for the last 50 years.

Get all the info you need when you visit squeah.com or contact our office!



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CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF CAMP MINISTRY

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Check out Garry's Blog at www.mcbc.ca!

MCBC 2011-2012 Calendar

- Feb 3-5, 2012** Young Adult IMPACT Retreat at Squeah
- Mar 2, 2012** LEAD Conference at Emmanuel Mennonite
- Mar 3, 2012** MCBC Annual Meeting & 75th Anniversary Banquet
- April 27-29, 2012** Jr. IMPACT Retreat at Camp Squeah
- May 5, 2012** Women's Inspirational Day at Bethel Mennonite
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Living Hope Christian Fellowship Announcement

Last December our Senior Pastoral couple, Lorin & Jeanette Bergen, heard God's clear call for their future and tendered their resignation in obedience to that call. It has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside Pastor Lorin and his family for the past 18 years. We know God's plans are greater than ours therefore we wish him and his family God's richest blessings. He will be truly missed but we are excited and confident about the journey God has for him and us.

Peace It Together Youth Conference | CMU

March 9 - 11, 2012

Be inspired and challenged with the theme, Jesus: The Peace that Matters. More information coming soon!



Communitas Job Openings

Stewardship Coordinator | Full Time

Working in conjunction with the Stewardship Director, to assist with coordination of donor relations and stewardship for the organization at the Communitas Supportive Care provincial office in Abbotsford.

Applications due by February 6, 2012.

Accountant | Full Time

Working as a member of the accounting team providing day-to-day management and oversight to all accounting and payroll related aspects of the organization at the Communitas provincial office in Abbotsford. Applications due by June 30, 2012.

For a full job description and to apply, visit our website at www.CommunitasCare.com

Did you know that you can now donate to MCBC online?

Try it today at www.mcbc.ca!



Yesterday-Today-Forever

By Garry Janzen

We had a wonderful time at the MCBC Multicultural Leaders Training Day on Saturday, January 14th. This was the beginning of round two of this event. The topic was Pastoral Care. Sven Eriksson was our teacher. There were 15 of us, coming from five churches, speaking four languages (Chinese, Hmong, Japanese and Spanish) plus the teaching language was English. It was at First United Mennonite Church in Vancouver. We learned about our

place as pastors and care givers as being a place of in-between. In-between: God and the congregation, Scripture and the congregation, the world and the congregation. We learned that the platform of pastoral ministry is – deliberate acts of paying attention to God and what he is doing in our neighbourhoods through: prayer, reading Scripture and in giving spiritual direction.

We will have two more training days through the spring, plus we will study in small groups the workbook, "Tending God's Flock: Pastoral Care and Counselling, Administration." Last year we did, "Anabaptist History and Thought."

The celebration of the MCBC 75th Anniversary and our 2012 Annual Meeting is upon us. While we will reflect on our past, our present is the launching pad to our future. Stuart Murray, author of *The Naked Anabaptist* will be our featured speaker to help us imagine what the future of the Anabaptist Church looks like. March 2nd and 3rd, 2012. Be there! Read the book. Stuart will be the speaker at our LEAD Conference on Friday, do a workshop at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, and then be the keynote speaker at our 75th Anniversary celebration on Saturday evening. All of this is at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford.

I have said this before, but I think is so cool that there are a lot of very Anabaptist oriented people out there doing stuff that reflects Anabaptist principles, yet they are not particularly Mennonite. Stuart Murray fits in this category. These people fully appreciate what Mennonites are on about, but they have found their way to the same beliefs through different corridors.

Lastly, remember to get Brander McDonald to come to your church. I was at FUMC in Vancouver a couple of weeks ago, and took in his Sunday School class on Indigenous and Christian worldview. He told some great stories of reconciliation in the sermon, and of course, we ate together. This learning and connecting is well worth our while.



'Pray the Devil back to Hell'
Review of the 2008 documentary

In 1989 a fourteen-year civil war began in Liberia resulting in deaths of 200,000 men, women and children. The war raged between the dictatorship of the president Charles Taylor and the rebels who called themselves the LURD. Eventually a movement of Liberian women began to work towards an end to the violence. Lemah Gbowee, who won the Nobel peace prize in 2011, encouraged the women to organize a peace movement in the country. "I had a dream," Gbowee says, "that someone was actually telling me to get the women of the church together to pray for peace."

She soon formed the Christian Women's Peace Initiative (WIPNET). It began with Christian women, but immediately also included Muslim women. "Can the bullet pick and choose? Does the bullet know Christian from Muslim?" asks one of the women. In the film, we see the women dressed in plain white clothes and covered heads, as a way to shed any differences of class or religion among them. They are determined to put an end to the violence in their communities and bring peace to their country. They risk their lives in a very challenging and dangerous time. The movement eventually had thousands of women joining their forces for the pursuit of peace—and all along, with much prayer and fasting.

The title of the film is a reference to President Taylor's fondness for preaching in the churches in the country, saying that his leadership came from 'Jehovah God Almighty'. All along however he was ordering terror and atrocities on his own people. Gbowee narrates, "Taylor would pray the Devil out of hell. And we said of this man who is so 'religious,' we need to get to that thing he holds firmly to, and pray the devil back to hell."

Pray the Devil Back to Hell is a story of faith and courage in the face of overwhelming violence. The rebels and the president and his army had the guns and bombs, and all the power of force, but the women of Liberia show that there is another kind of power that can prevail in seeming weakness. It is a story of the beatitudes of Jesus bearing fruit.



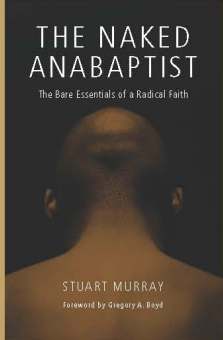
75th Anniversary Celebration
March 2 & 3, 2012

Friday, March 2
9:00am **LEAD Conference**

Saturday, March 3
1:00pm **Annual General Meeting**
5:30pm **Banquet**
Tickets - \$25 available at MCBC Office

7:00pm **Celebration Service**
Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness over the last 75 years.

Hosted at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, BC
More Info at www.mcbc.ca



Guest Speaker
Author of 'The Naked Anabaptist'
Stuart Murray



What is MCBC and Why You Should Care

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Q: Wait, there are a lot more than 31 Mennonite congregations in BC, what denomination are they?

A: Ah, an excellent question, a source of much confusion. There are several Mennonite denominations in BC, MCBC and Mennonite Brethren are the ones we are most familiar with. Also something that might help, MCBC is the 'denomination formerly known as Conference of Mennonites in BC'. We have no plans to change our name to a symbol, but we will keep you posted.

Q: Okay so MCBC is sort of the glue that connects all these different Mennonite Congregations?

A: Yep, more or less.

Q: So what makes MCBC different?

A: Well, we believe in many important biblical foundations that you can read about on our website, www.mcbbc.ca, but here are some things that we feel make us different (not better, just different!): We are Anabaptists, that means we believe in adult baptism only and it is not necessary for salvation in Christ but is an important step in one's faith. We believe in and strive to work as a community. As individual congregations and as a denomination we believe that community is the intention of church and should be treated as such. Discipleship is a big deal – that is, following Jesus as the centre of how we live. And, the one we are most known for – living as active non-violent peacemakers.

Q: Alright, I think I've got a handle on MCBC, what about AGM, LEAD, etc.?

A: Basically, AGM is the common acronym for Annual General Meeting, which comes from the business world. In the church world we prefer just talking about the Annual Meeting, but it's not a big deal. This is a meeting where representatives from each congregation come together and connect, sharing ministries, approve the MCBC budget, and hear what MCBC is doing on behalf of the congregations. There are also sessions on a variety of relevant issues and delicious snacks!

LEAD – aka Annual Lead Conference aka Lead Conference once stood for Leaders, Elders And Deacons Conference. Now it is open to anyone, not just those in leadership positions! There will be two sessions lead by Stuart Murray regarding the growing appeal of an Anabaptist lifestyle followed by a time of discussion and fellowship. And remember to read [The Naked Anabaptist](#) so you can know all about what we're talking about!

Q: Hmm, both of those events sound interesting, when are they? Can I come?!

A: They are interesting! And you are more than welcome! Every congregation generally has a certain number of representatives come; talk to your church leaders to see if there are still spots available! The Lead Conference is March 2, 2012 and the AGM is March 3, 2012, we will see you there!

We hope that this has answered some questions you might have about what MCBC is, but if not, please contact us! 604 850 6658 or mcbbc@uniserve.com



Nomination Committee

Good and Not-So-Good News

Nomination Committee Report by Belinda Rempel

Good News: We are very grateful to our many volunteers who continue to serve on committees and for the volunteers who are completing their terms. Each of you has put in your own time, energy and talent into your position and we thank you very much, you have made an impact in the ministries at MCBC and you will be missed.

Not-So-Good News: The AGM is fast approaching and so far, we have filled 6 out of 22 positions on our various MCBC/CBC/MCC BC Committees. Fortunately we are waiting to hear back from some volunteers whether they are renewing, but our Nominations Committee still needs to fill a number of spaces.

The Leadership Committee and mostly Janette Thiessen are working very diligently to have all the reports and paperwork put together for distribution before the meeting on March 3, please let us know soon if you are interested.

The following committees are in need of volunteers:

Church Health: 1

Finance Committee: 2

Evangelism and Church Development: 3

Service, Peace & Justice: 1

Nominations: 2

Camp Squeah: 1

BC Women's Ministry: 2

CBC Nominations Committee: 1

If you are renewing or considering a position please contact Belinda Rempel at belindacreations@gmail.com or (778) 866-0600 as soon as possible.

Urgent Volunteers needed

BC Women's Ministry needs a minimum of three committee members to make this ministry run. **There are currently TWO openings for this year.**

What exactly is this committee's mandate?

1. a. To make sure the Inspirational Day has a hosting church from year to year.
 - b. To come alongside the hosting committee and assist them.
2. To plan the Retreat Weekend together with the volunteers that step up at the retreat weekend from year to year.
3. To connect with the MCBC Church Health Committee and Mennonite Women Canada as needed.