



# CAMP SQUEAH News!



## The Sounds of Squeah

One of Squeah's assets is the Squeah Lodge with its large dining hall and meeting space. But even good things can be improved upon and that's what will be happening here in December.

The sound quality in this area has always been less than ideal. Now, thanks to generous donations from the MCBC youth pastors and Crossroads Community Church, we are addressing the acoustic challenges in this space so that it will better accommodate a new and improved sound system. As we enter 2012 and look to celebrating our 50th anniversary, we want to ensure that all our guests have the best sound environment we are able to offer.

The Lodge will not be available for bookings from December 1-23 as improvements are made. In addition to working on the Lodge acoustics, we are also laying a new floor in our kitchen. Volunteers are welcome to help with these projects – please contact Squeah if you're interested in helping out or if you'd like more information!

And speaking of our 50th anniversary – be sure to join us July 21st, 2012 for a time of celebration of all the good things God has done at Squeah over the last half century. Exciting things are being planned, so watch for more info in the new year!



Camp Squeah  
#4 - 27915 Trans  
Canada Hwy.  
Hope, British  
Columbia, V0X 1L3  
www.squeah.com



Mennonite Church  
British Columbia  
visit [www.mcbc.ca](http://www.mcbc.ca)

## News & Notes

November - December 2011



Merry Christmas from all of us at

Mennonite Church British Columbia



## Evangelism and Church Development Committee An update by ECDC Chair, Lee Dyck

**“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”** Revelation 2:7a NLT

Evangelism and Church Development Committee is listening for churches engaged in missional activities, taking the Good News out into their neighbourhoods and opening the gospel in new and creative ways. How is your church being missional? What is the Spirit saying to you about the needs in your community?

Being missional may well mean getting out of the building or using the facility in ways other than regular Sunday morning activity. What are the tangibles showing God's love in action? We have heard about food banks, soup kitchens, parking lot roller hockey, and multicultural exchanges of food and conversation. There are kids clubs and after school homework drop-in opportunities. We know it's happening and we want to hear about it.

In early 2012, we will ask each church in MCBC to respond to some questions to help us see where we can come alongside what you are doing already, encouraging, and helping discern where there may be other opportunities for your congregation to reach into your community with the good news of God's love...for everybody from across the street to around the world. In this way we work together at carrying out the second great commandment - loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Perhaps your church is ready to multiply or to plant another church and just needs a little help to move in that direction. We are here to help facilitate that as well. We want to hear from you. In fact, we would love to be invited to meet with your leadership team to discern together what the Spirit is saying to your congregation!

#100-32025 George Ferguson Way Abbotsford BC V2T 2K7 | 604 850 6658 | [admin@mcbc.ca](mailto:admin@mcbc.ca)

Check out Garry's Blog at [www.mcbc.ca](http://www.mcbc.ca)!

## MCBC 2011-2012 Calendar

<b>Nov 18-20</b>	Sr. Youth IMPACT Retreat at Camp Squeah
<b>Feb 3-5, 2012</b>	Young Adult IMPACT Retreat at Camp Squeah
<b>Mar 2, 2012</b>	LEAD Conference at Emmanuel Mennonite
<b>Mar 3, 2012</b>	MCBC Annual Meeting & 75th Anniversary Banquet
<b>April 27-29, 2012</b>	Jr. IMPACT Retreat at Camp Squeah
<b>May 5, 2012</b>	Women's Inspirational Day at Bethel Mennonite

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## Sing-along Messiah

### Join Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship

**November 27, 10 AM | 4000 W. 11th Ave.**

Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship will once again hold its annual Sing-along Messiah as part of its service of worship and prayer on First Advent - Sunday November 27. We provide copies of the score to all, and many of us now have our own copies! Conductor Eric Hannan leads the congregation, accompanists, and enthusiastic guests in singing favourites from this well-known oratorio by G. F. Handel. Guests from the congregations or neighbourhood are always welcome. For more information see [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org)

## Advent Vespers

### with Abendmusik Choir



**December 3, 8 pm | Abbotsford**  
Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, 3386 Mt. Lehman Road

**December 4, 8 pm | Vancouver**  
Knox United Church, 5600 Balaclava

## 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!



## For Such A Time As This

**By Garry Janzen**

I believe there will be a foundational impact to MCBC's entering into level ground relationships with our indigenous neighbours at this time in history. They are saying that they are, "hearing the gospel for the first time." Cheryl Bear, a local indigenous singer songwriter said to me, "We're watching you (Mennonites)." If we get it right this time, I can't imagine the impact it may have on our witness to the good news of Jesus Christ – not just with our indigenous neighbours, but overall. And it's simple – it's just about being friends!

I would like to offer to our congregations the opportunity of Asset Mapping. It is a simple process of looking at what you have as a congregation, connecting the dots for ministry and committing to go for it. It works best as a four hour leadership retreat. Call me for more information.

The MCBC Vision Team is reviewing our identity and purpose. Currently we have said that "Mennonite Church British Columbia is a faith community of Christian churches with a passionate allegiance to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Our purpose is to enable congregations to individually and collectively engage most fully in the mission of Christ." We are revisiting the basics of our reason for existing as a gathering of church communities and how our being together aligns with God's work in the world.

We had an excellent Pastor/Spouse Retreat, well-led and well-attended. Diane and I had a wonderful time in Palestine/Israel, co-leading a TourMagination group of 18 with Gerd Bartel. We give thanks to God for safety, blessing and learning. Mennonite Church Canada is working at determining best practices with limited resources, especially in streamlining the ministry relationship between the national church and the area churches.

As we have just come through reflecting on our calling to be Peacemakers at Remembrance Day, and are entering the Advent season to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may we increase as agents of God's Good News!

For photos of the 4th Annual MCBC Motorcycle Ride in August, [click here!](#)

Lastly – at the MCBC Special Delegate Session on November 5th, we agreed to release the title of the Olivet Church property to the congregation. Let's continue to be supportive of the former members at this time.

## Cedar Valley Mennonite Church

We are excited about what God is doing in, with and through us. We have recently received 5 new members and have been given the opportunity to unite with folks from neighboring churches in the community to provide an AWANA program for children age 3–grade 5.

The youth grade 6-12 attending the SOAR program are actively encouraging their friends to join them in learning to follow Christ as through scripture memorization and participating in service projects like Fraser Valley Gleaners, Adopt-a-block, Mission Community Services Food Hampers and the Operation Christmas Child shoe box packing party they care for one another. As Pastor Chad's signature states, pray for this generation.

Many of our seniors were intrigued to hear Brander McDonald speak of how the young people are taught to show respect for the elders in their community during his visit with us on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Building relationships with First Nations people is developing.

Our multiple committees and teams continue to meet frequently to take action on the goals determined in 2010. Our renovation project to provide a coffee counter and information booth are nearing completion. CVMC has voted to leave the MEI Society and we are aiming to implement the recommendations of our Christian Education Task Force.

Active Care Groups at CVMC continue to Follow Christ and Care for People as daily we serve one another in practical ways and live out our vision statement ~ As believers in Christ's life-changing love, we will interact with our local and global community.

Once again we are involving many of our volunteers in various roles through our Christmas outreach and will present *The Story & The Glory* to the community Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM and 4<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. Tickets are \$5 for this Drama & Dessert Event. Also available is \$5/childcare (max \$10/family for childcare) All are welcome to participate in bringing the Christmas message to the needy! May God's richest blessings reach in to your very soul to bring you renewed strength and joy for 2012 as his love is seen in you this Christmas!

## Communitas hires new Stewardship Director Tom Balke joins Communitas Supportive Care Society



Communitas Supportive Care Society is pleased to announce that Tom Balke will join the organization as Stewardship Director in October of 2011. His contribution will enrich the services Communitas provides, and invite broader participation and community support.

Tom has twenty years of experience working with a variety of local and international mission-related organizations, providing fundraising leadership and development assistance. He holds a Master's Degree in Communications and International Development from McGill University, and is an active member of the

Association of Fundraising Professionals. Tom, together with his wife Kim, and their two teenage sons are members of Cedar Park Mennonite Brethren Church in Delta, BC.

Communitas is a non-profit, faith-based social services agency providing care in communities in Greater Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, North Vancouver Island and Okanagan.



## Kelowna First Mennonite Church

Christmas! Is our celebration sacred or secular, traditional, renewed or just the latest? A blend, perhaps. How do we decide what there is when so much offered and expected?

Primarily, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who was born a long time ago, in a place, time and culture very different from our own. We each come with different memories of what Christmas is and what is important to us. I grew up in the country with real trees, candles, and maybe a present all my own, it was all about family and tradition. We always had to learn our songs and verses so we were ready when the grandparents came. It was about Jesus and family, and community. Your memory is probably quite different. At First Mennonite, Kelowna, as a very diverse group, we plan on diverse celebrations this Christmas season.

There are the morning services, planned according to "The Leader". On First Advent we are planning a German Carol Service, as for many, German is the mother tongue, and German carols are an important part of celebrations. This gives us the opportunity to invite other congregations to join in our celebrations. Then there is the Christmas banquet, with the traditional turkey. Again we have the opportunity to invite groups who are not part of the usual community. We have several groups who use our facilities and this is our opportunity to include them in our celebrations. Christmas Eve will include the Psalm 98 service group, who are bringing a new take on traditional carols.

So our traditions continue to grow and adapt as we do. Christmas is still filled with family, friends, food, decorations, chill in the air, and devotions. We are diverse, so are the plans of the Church to celebrate Christmas.



75<sup>TH</sup>  
anniversary

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012

BANQUET

5:30 - 7:00PM | \$25 per plate

CELEBRATION | 7:00 - 9:00PM

with **Stuart Murray**, author of  
'The Naked Anabaptist'

**EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH**  
3471 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, BC



## EVENSONG CHAMBER SINGERS ADVENT VESPERS



*A Advent service of sacred music, readings and prayers*

*Director – Hans Kruger*

*String Quartet - Barb Nickel, violin*

*Accompanist – Nita Pelletier*

*- Antje Neumann, violin*

*Trumpet – Mark D'Angelo*

*- Beth Nickel, viola*

*- Kristl Armstrong, cello*

*4:15 pm Sunday, December 4, 2011*

*7:30 pm Wednesday, December 7, 2011*

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,*

*8871 School Street. Chilliwack*

*Designated offering for Lutheran Suswa Orphanage in Kenya  
or MCC's "Help the Afghan Children Fund"  
For further information, call 604-858-5806*

### The Business of Everyday Life Women's Ministry Report by Waltrude Gortzen

This year Women's Retreat was a wonderful event, filled with laughter, fabulous food, (including a chocolate fondue on Friday night) visiting with old and new friends and learning about being a "Woman of Honour".

Our weekend speaker, Ann-Michele Ewert, came to us via M.E.D.A. (Mennonite Economic Development Association) and she spoke about the Proverbs 31 woman and drew parallels between the women in the Bible and today's woman. How, even in Bible times, women had businesses that help support their families and sometimes, whole villages; the same way many of our younger women do today.

We invited women with home-based businesses to come and join us for the weekend and gave them the opportunity to show us what they do, tell us why they do it and what or who inspired them to start a home business. Eleven women responded to our invitation and participated by showing us their products and hopefully also inspired the other weekend participants to maybe start a business of their own.

We also surprised the women with some special visitors on Saturday morning. Five of the "Mennonite Girls Can Cook" blog and cookbook authors came for a book signing. The 60 books that "House of James" had provided for this purpose were scooped up in a flash! Fortunately, we had anticipated this and had prepared stickers to be signed that could then be pasted into the book purchased after the retreat.

Saturday afternoon we provided a cupcake decorating workshop. Eleanore Balzer Isaak, owner of "Elly's Studio of Cake Design", in Chilliwack, came and taught the class how to assemble a puppy dog.

On Saturday night we hosted Doris Daley, cowboy poet from Calgary, AB. The women had so much fun listening to her as she told us stories and recited her poetry.

This was followed by a live auction with the proceeds going to M.E.D.A. and they will assist us with providing loans to women in Third World countries and help them to start a business which will allow them to feed their families and to send their children to school.

When all was said and done, we had raised **\$922.00** for this purpose! We are so thankful for everyone's enthusiastic participation.

Statistically, we improved our attendance by 7 women this year with Saturday having the best attendance. We also caught the attention of a number of younger women and hope to build on that for next year. In total we had 101 registered participants this year.

We are already looking forward to next year, **Oct. 12 – 14** when our speaker will be Jackie Ayer – Family Counsellor (*and the pastor's wife*) from Crossroads Community Church in Chilliwack. Our theme for next year will be geared towards "**Self-Image**" and we hope that many of you will plan to attend. Please put the retreat on your long-term schedule and we will see you at Squelah next fall!