



CAMP SQUEAH News!



Do you love the outdoors? Do you love interacting with people? Are you looking for an experience that will create relational space with Jesus to change your life? Then it's time to plant a SEED in your life and watch God cause it to grow!

Squeah's SEED Internship is a mentoring and discipleship process that takes place in the context of the Christian community at Camp Squeah. Students will receive hands-on training in all aspects of camp ministry and experience in out-tripping and community service.

This 10 month program is for Christians between ages 19 and 30 who want to grow physically, mentally, socially, spiritually and emotionally. With only eight students in the program, you can expect a deep level of intimacy as you experience life together, leading to lifetime friendships. Through intentional time set aside to reflect on participants' Life Journey's, we believe students will meet deeply with God and be disciplined.

SEED is currently accepting applicants. For more information visit www.squeahseed.com



Mennonite Church
British Columbia
visit www.mcbbc.ca

News & Notes

September - October 2011

Welcome Brander McDonald Newly hired Indigenous Relations Coordinator



We have hired Brander McDonald as our new Indigenous Relations Coordinator, starting immediately. He will be carrying forward the work of Steve Heinrichs as well as bringing his own flavour to this position. He is based in Chilliwack.

Brander says, "As a Cree First Nations believer in Jesus I am delighted to be given this opportunity to join with MCBC in relating the First Nations Cultural mindset and of what it means to carry the Jesus Walk. MCBC has had the extraordinary courage and vision to embrace an Indigenous person to relate the First Nations protocols and bridge building leadership to its members. This is truly an exciting time!"

Brander speaks of his two passions, "One, the passion I hold is speaking into the question of what it means to be a First Nations cultural person and to be fully engaged as a lifelong follower of Jesus. Not the Jesus of residential schools of the past, not of government policy, but the Saviour represented in the gospels and even of Anabaptist traditions. I have a passion to share what it means to carry this cross-cultural heart for the healing of my native peoples and the church community to which I grew up in. The second passion associated with this is in regards to being a singer/songwriter who can share these same stories and lessons through song and speech."

Welcome Brander! We look forward to getting to know you and working with you and uniting with this ministry.

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Check out Garry's Blog at www.mcbbc.ca

MCBC 2011-2012 Calendar

Oct 3-5	Pastor/Spouse Retreat
Oct 14-16	MCBC Ladies Retreat
Nov 18-20	Sr. Youth IMPACT Retreat at Camp Squeah
Feb 3-5, 2012	Young Adult IMPACT Retreat at Camp 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

Living Hope Sullivan Fun Day

September 17, 10 am - 2 pm | Sullivan Elementary, Surrey

Come for a day of fun and play outside! Also join us September 24 at 7 pm for our Launch Celebration Service.

Bethel Celebrates it's 75th Birthday!

Join them in celebration at a FREE Community Day!

Saturday October 1, 11am - 3pm | Bethel Church

Free hotdogs, drinks, popcorn and more along with lots of activities for kids, sports, and the Langley fire truck and fire fighters! There will also be Live music featuring J.D. Miner and the Fraser Valley Fiddlers! To find out more, phone the church office at 604-856-8454.

MCBC Pastor & Spouse Retreat

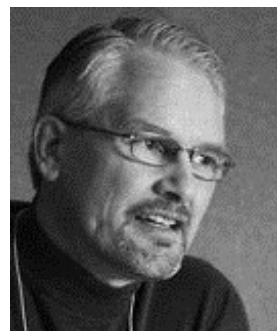
October 3 - 5, 2011 | Camp Squeah

Speakers include Lorin Bergen, Tim Kuepfer and Phil Wheaton. The worship Resource Person is Marlene Kropf, retired AMBS professor.

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!



Ramping Up for What Lies Ahead

By Garry Janzen

If won't be long and we will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of MCBC, and looking to the future, with Stuart Murray (also known as Stuart Murray Williams) author of "The Naked Anabaptist" as our featured speaker . 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, then be our keynote speaker at our 75th Anniversary celebration on Saturday evening. All at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford.

What I think is so cool is 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. They fully appreciate what Mennonites are on about, but they have found their way to the same beliefs through different corridors. I was at the Creative World Festival near Mission in August, put on by a bunch of young evangelical Christians who care deeply about justice and the arts. I would invite you to consider attending the "Why Everything Must Change" conference at 10th Avenue Alliance Church in Vancouver on September 24th, featuring words by Brian McLaren, Greg Paul, (Shane Claiborne & Stephen Lewis by video conference) and more; music by Carolyn Arends. Check it out at www.ychange.ca.

Another great leadership event, which is also being promoted by Mennonite Church Canada is: **The Global Leadership Summit**. The special \$99 rate that has been negotiated is co-sponsored by MAX Canada Insurance. Normally, this event is a (up to) \$250 dollar cost. You can learn more about it, get your discount, learn how to register, and sign up for the location nearest to you at: www.mennonitechurch.ca. **The deadline for registration is Sept. 21.**

The 4th Annual MCBC Motorcycle Ride was a blast. Check the MCBC website for photos. Lastly - We are on the verge of settling the property issues related to the departure of Olivet Church from MCBC. No matter how you slice it, this is a tough journey for those affected by it. There are no fully satisfying answers, but in the end it is about healing and hope, and we are seeking to help where we can for the love of Jesus to prevail.

Building a House, Building Relationships

Fourteen people from Cedar Valley MC travel to Guatemala

This year a family from Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala can lock their door, tuck their little ones in, and go to sleep at night knowing that the rain will not turn their dirt floor to mud, their cornstalk walls to musty homes for bugs, and their children's health to illness. They have new cement board walls, a concrete floor, and a new tin roof, provided by Cedar Valley Mennonite Church and built by our 14 member 2011 team, with help from the Santa Maria church we partner with. Building a house for a family has a profound impact on that family, is a testament to God's love and care for them and their church, and is a way that the whole neighbourhood can see God's love in action.

Teams from CVMC have built six houses over eight years, participated in outreach programs of the Santa Maria church, and plan to continue building relationships with our Cakchiquel brothers and sisters so that the goal of missions is realized: "Let the peoples



praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" (Ps. 67:3-4)

If you or your church is interested in short term mission opportunities, here are a few resources!
www.habitat.ca
www.mbmission.org
www.mcc.org

Emmanuel Mennonite Church

We are blessed to welcome some new members to our ministry team this fall; Chris Lenshyn will be our new Associate Pastor, joining us in October from Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, and Laura Loewen will be joining us in a new position as Seniors Ministry Coordinator. We are also in the process of confirming a student internship from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). We give thanks to God for all of the wonderful things happening at Emmanuel!

Emmanuel Mennonite Church enjoyed a wonderful End of Summer BBQ to welcome everyone back after summer and get ready for the fall. Our theme for this year will be "Radical Faith" with a preaching series on 1 John that calls us to a radical love for God and for others. One example of this radical faith in action will be the baptism of two people who took part in our "Becoming Christian" series this year.

MDS Dessert Nights

Join Mennonite Disaster Services in celebration

September 30, 6:30 PM | Level Ground Mennonite Church

October 1, 6:30 PM | First United Mennonite Church

You are invited to participate in the fall Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) **dessert evenings** and celebration of Christian service. Hear reports from youth groups and others who served in Kingcome Inlet, BC, this past spring and summer, assisting in clean-up and housing restoration following flooding in the coastal valley.

Other items will be dessert, special music, pictorial presentations and an opportunity to support MDS ministry. For more information contact board members Dan Zehr, 604 855-0532, or Waldimar Neufeld 604-859-3139

AMBS Church Leadership Center Webinar

For pastors and leaders

October 18, 7:30pm EDT

Advent Planning: Awesome deeds we do not expect; Presenters: Marlene Kropf, Rosanna McFadden. Register by October 14. Register at www.ambs.edu/webinars

Advent Vespers

With Abendmusik Choir



December 3, 8pm | Abbotsford

Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, 3386 Mt. Lehman Church

December 4, 8pm | Vancouver

Knox United Church, 5600 Balaclava

Donations accepted to Menno Simons Centre.

Women's Retreat Weekend | October 14 - 16, 2011

"What makes a Woman of Honour?" and "The Business of Everyday Life"



GUEST SPEAKER FROM MEDA
Ann-Michelle Ewert

Enjoy a relaxing weekend of
encouragement and fun!

Register today online at www.mcabc.ca
 or email Waltrude Gortzen at waltrude@shaw.ca





Why Everything Must Change Foundations for Social Justice Conference

Sept 24, 2011 | 10th Ave Alliance Church, Vancouver

Speakers include Shane Claiborne, Greg Paul, Stephen Lewis, Stephen McLaren and more. Music by Carolyn Arends and Spencer Capier.

To find out more information, and to register, go to www.ychange.ca.

Spirituality for Sinners and Saints Workshop With Marlene Kropf presented by LMF | October 1– 2, 2011



Langley Mennonite Fellowship is hosting Marlene Kropf to lead several sessions on spirituality and prayer. Spirituality is often a challenging topic for us to deal with. It's possible to think that in order to become 'more spiritual' we need to leave behind our ordinary lives and somehow become more holy or godly or... something. What does it look like to nurture our deep holy longings in the midst of living in the ordinary day to day 'real world' in which we are located, – a world where we often find ourselves being both 'sinners and saints'."

Saturday, October 1, 2011

9:00 am - 1:30 pm | Workshop at LMF

'Stop, look and listen - Spiritual formation in the congregation'. Cost \$10.00.

Please register for this workshop by emailing the LMF office at langfell@telus.net

Sunday, October 2, 2011

9:45 am -10:45 am | Adult Education Class at LMF

'The water will hold you: learning to pray'

11:00 am - 12:15 pm | Worship service with Marlene preaching at LMF

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Mennonite Discussion Group in Vancouver

St. David's Anglican Church | 2475 Franklin St, Vancouver

CMU Study Tour: The Holy Land Ancient Stones, Living Stones: The Holy Land in Perspective

April 30 - May 21, 2012

Journey through time with this in depth study tour. Travel with leader Gordon Matties, Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies.

Visit www.cmu.ca/studytour for more details.



Mennonite Women Canada 2011 Assembly Report by Waltrude Gortzen

A full report of the Assembly in the August 1st issue of Canadian Mennonite includes a list of speakers, resolutions, finances, and special events such as the Mennonite Women Canada Luncheon. Even so, I would like to mention a few things!:

- Mennonite Women Canada introduced their very first brochure promoting their ministries! Come to the Annual MCBC Women's Retreat Weekend (Oct. 14-16) and you will receive one.
- In 2012, the Canadian Assembly will take place in BC and Mennonite Women Canada will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary here in BC! This is a very special honour for all our BC mothers and grandmothers since they were the pioneers (1939) to what, 11 years later became Canadian Women in Mission in 1952.
- I have 12 copies of the 2011 Bible Study Guide - "Wonderfully Made" available for purchase; Cost: \$10.00.

Over the next 10 months or so, leading up the next year's assembly and the 60th Anniversary Celebration, quite a bit of planning and preparation will need to happen, not to mention that we will need a good number of volunteers to put this birthday party in place! Watch this space for more details on how you can be a part of it!

Nominations Committee Report By Belinda Rempel

I am always amazed at how God provides for us, regardless of whether we seek out His counsel or try to accomplish things on our own. While I was preparing for our first Nominations committee meeting in the spring I had been searching for some material about volunteering and recruiting volunteers. After much searching I hadn't found anything that could help. At our first meeting Garry Janzen mentioned a great resource available through Mennonite Church Canada "Many Gifts – Calling and Growing Congregational Leaders". This is how God provides even when we are not asking! I highly recommend this book for everyone in leadership and anyone else that wants to learn about serving God through the church community. It's perfect for MCBC because it was written with churches like many of ours in mind. It's an inspirational book that will fill you with the desire and ways to fulfill the purpose God has in mind for each of us.

At MCBC most committees take a break for the summer, however, the nominations committee continues to work, as we go about our daily routines we are also thinking about "who will do good in this job" and "who will do good in another". Our job is about people and how they can serve God through MCBC. We aren't about "filling empty slots", we are about learning how to recognize gifts in people and provide an opportunity for them to share their gift by serving on a committee. And, it isn't just about serving on a committee, being a volunteer is a "lifestyle" choice we make. Regardless of work, health and daily routines, our many volunteers take time out of their busy schedules to utilize and share their gifts. The best thing about serving on a committee for MCBC is that most people will find a way to serve and you don't have to be a "leader", you just need a love for God and a willingness to learn. He will take care of the rest.

The Nominations Committee is putting out a call for people that have a desire to serve and love God. Don't worry about the time or the busyness of your schedule – give those things up to God, we need to trust in Him and He will show us the way. Volunteering is about doing what you enjoy, connecting with people, giving a bit of yourself to others, learning how to support each other, and sometimes even learning a few things about ourselves in the process.



Is your Church Growing Elders?

By Laura Loewen

This was a question that was asked of us in a course I took at Regent College this past Spring. It was taught by Dr. Jim Houston, a person in his late 80's. Why the term 'elder' as opposed to 'senior?' We know that our society is growing many seniors. In fact an age related tsunami is fast approaching as the baby boomer generation is reaching retirement years. Dr. Houston clarified this question in this way, "A senior is someone who's retired from their profession and therefore seen as having no longer having a functional identity, and therefore little purpose for society. An elder is someone who, all his or her life, has been committed to relational values such as friendship and family. As elders grow old, they continue to foster communal values and strong relationships. From the Old Testament, the elder is the one who facilitates the maturing of personal relationships within the community."

Today we live in a society where the good of the community has, and continues to shift to individual rights and privileges. Narcissism (focus on self), is becoming our way of life. We need to grow people who care for others as 'caring' is shaped from childhood. What is the role of an elder? Again, from Dr. Houston, the role of an elder is to:

- Enlarge the vision of a reductionist culture (see beyond our walls). When we have our eye on the eternal, we change/enlarge our perspective. Conception precedes perception, perhaps we could say that an elder has a 'holy imagination.'
- Be devoted to prayer, a prayerful person develops a listening ear. Listening involves sacrifice, sacrifice involves selflessness and prayer is mutual. Ministering means one also has need of being ministered to otherwise prayer can become neurotic.
- Live in the face of death. We need to live in a way that Christ will be recognized in us. We're not waiting for our dying to face death, we were facing death when we were baptized – death to self and to live in Christ.
- Show others what it really means to live 'in the resurrection.' Resurrection is God's remembrance of us. The Israelites were the memory of God, there is an ethical consequence when living in the resurrection. Because God remembers us, we also then 'in the resurrection' will remember others.

Can you identify persons of all ages in your church that are showing these qualities? Our professor believes that 'growing' people who listen to the voice of 'the other' could have huge revolutionary affects for the future.



MCBC Committee Vacancies

We have several positions available in our committees, if you are interested or just want to talk about the opportunities please contact Belinda Rempel, belindascreations@gmail.com.

Committees with vacancies:

Treasurer | Finance Committee, Church Health, Evangelism and Church Development Committee, Nominations, MCC, BC Women's Ministry, CBC Nominations Committee

WANTED

- Help with refinishing the oak boardroom table in the MCBC Office. If you have the equipment and expertise to help us refinish a fine looking oak table please give Janette at MCBC a call at 604-850-6658 or email her at admin@mcbc.ca.
- Brander McDonald, the Indigenous Relations Coordinator does not have a car at the moment. If anyone has a reasonably priced car in decent condition, please contact Garry Janzen at garryjanzen@mcbc.ca

CBC Positions

Software Support Specialist

This is a full time position that fulfills the role of webmaster for Columbia's website, oversees the ongoing operation of Columbia's electronic technology information system (Blackbaud), and facilitates instruction to all faculty and staff for all website, network and/or software applications. Please visit www.columbiabc.edu for full details and requirements. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Please send a cover letter and resume to brenda.foth@columbiabc.edu.

Youth for Youth: Benefit Concert for The Cyrus Centre

October 14 | 7pm | South Abbotsford Church | min. \$10 donation

We feel that youth can make a difference, and that helping other youth, just like ourselves, is a perfect place to start! Funds raised go to the Cyrus Centre in Abbotsford, which is an inner city mission reaching out to support youth.

Featuring the bands:

The Northern (formerly Ivory Coast)
Poppy and the Pistols
Adam & Antium
Ransom for the Captives

Residential Survivor Stories

By Ricki Lane

Can you imagine living in an oppressed society where a government agent can unexpectedly arrive at your door, seize your children, and take them away to a government controlled school? They will be submerged in a different culture, forced to learn a foreign language and religion, and punished severely if they attempt to deviate from the expected cultural norms in any way. To add to the trauma, your children may also face physical, mental and sexual abuse at the school. They are perhaps allowed to visit you for a brief summer vacation, if they survive the high death rates at their school, but they have been told that your ways are wrong and so they no longer fit into your home or your culture.

Scrutiny of Canada's not-so-distant colonial past reveals the painful separation of families and cultural genocide that were actually forced on native Canadians in the residential school era from the 1840's to well past mid twentieth century. The Indian Residential School Survivors Society has been formed to assist First Peoples in British Columbia to courageously address the long term effects of traumatic childhood memories, and to seek healing in the traditional indigenous ways. Their oral narrative techniques of humor, storytelling, song, and poetry are being put to use to tell the truth and move forward.

I thought I had a good understanding of the real history of Canada's miscarried attempts to assimilate our indigenous people and so when Steve Heinrichs strongly suggested that the members of the MCC Indigenous Action Group attend an evening storytelling event with elders from the IRSSS, I hesitated to make the long drive from Chilliwack to First United Mennonite Church in Vancouver. But Steve's urgent follow-up email nudged me into sorting out my commitments and marking it on my calendar. I did not yet have a sense of the powerful impact this evening's experience would have on me.

I was early and so had the opportunity to meet Elder Ben David of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth First Nation before the meeting and by the time he rose to address the seventy people present that evening I knew that I was not there as a mere observer, but rather as a participant immersed in the pain of the storytellers' unresolved traumas. It would leave me a changed person. As Ben spoke extensively of the ongoing violent physical and sexual assault that he had experienced at school, I was shocked at his frank depiction of the graphic details but I could not deny that all of us had to hear this; we needed to be able to get a complete picture of the violations he and many other students had faced. That he was now talking about forgiveness and his gratitude to God and to his German wife who had helped him recover and rebuild his life, is a story of triumph over a long period of tormented alcoholism.

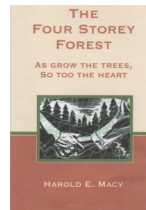
Andy Yellowback, a Cree schooled in Manitoba, emphasized that the indigenous people's strength lies in their ability to forgive. My response to this profound wisdom was heightened with my recollection of a personal First Nations friend having said much the same thing, that forgiveness is the empowering path that many indigenous people embrace for their healing process. Andy spoke about the separation and loneliness he had felt as an IRS student, though he often interspersed uplifting little jokes, revealing another powerful attitude that had helped save his life.



So as the evening progressed, each of the elders shared their own ways of making it through their dark journeys. With the ability to forgive and to see humor, and most significantly with the love of our amazing Creator, they had come through the fire. The Gitxcan elder sang a beautiful inspirational song in dramatic contrast to her story of living the life of a hopeless alcoholic until the day she faced the possibility of losing her newborn grandchild before he even had a chance to begin his life, at which point she pleaded earnestly with God to accept her commitment to change her life if He would just allow her to keep her grandson and help him grow up in a better world. I left the meeting emotionally devastated, asking our Lord to show us ways in which we can work together to continue to build bridges of understanding, compassion and friendship.

The Four Story Forest by Harold Macy

Book Review by Gareth Brandt



Harold Macy's first book, *Four Story Forest*, is a unique combination of spiritual journal, forestry manual, political commentary, local almanac, and historical fiction. Macy's writing is part Wendell Berry and part Rudy Wiebe, but mostly just his very own eclectic reflections. The book includes local humor and homespun tales to sad stories of forest fires and world wars to deep insights into religion and global environmental issues.

The four story's of the forest are not only about the levels of growth in the forest from the mushrooms on the floor to the tips of the giant Douglas Firs. The book also hints at the layers of history from Creation to ice age to aboriginal habitation to European settlement to modern technology. The deepest story however is the level of spirituality that includes talk of relationship with God, prayer and hymn singing, and the inter-relationship of all aspects of Creation.

I laughed out loud at Macy's descriptive turns of phrase. Fellow islanders will understand the image of "clouds squatting on the forest". After chuckling at his humor, I said "Amen!" to his homespun advice, and then shed a tear at his tenderly told stories of struggling Mennonite settlers who planted the trees in his woodlot during the war.

The book is more like a series of vignettes, reflections and memoirs. The historical fiction and the personal reflections are kept separate through a distinct font until the end when they satisfyingly merge in a wonderful final chapter. It will be of interest for all those who live in or visit British Columbia, Canada, for all who care about the sustainability of the forest and the relationship between creation and Creator.

Harold Macy attends United Mennonite Church Black Creek.

Gareth Brandt, author of *Under Construction: Reframing Men's Spirituality* [Herald Press, 2009], professor of practical theology at Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford, BC.