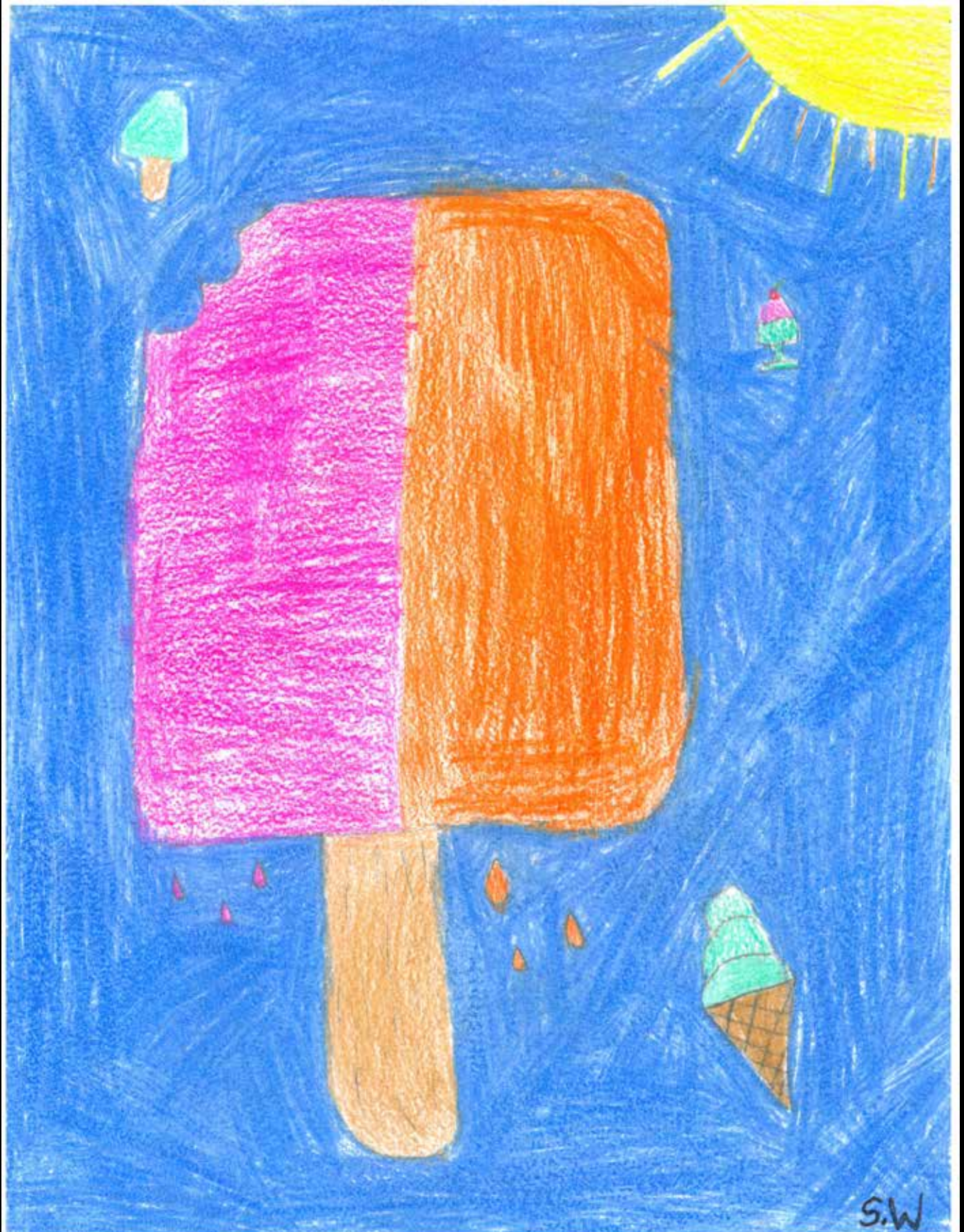


CONNECTION

point

Spring 2016 || Gracepoint Community Church



Who is Gracepoint Community Church?

We're ordinary people united by our mission: Growing followers of Jesus who experience God and engage our world together. In other words, we believe God's focus is growing whole people through Jesus Christ and so that's what we want to be about too! We care deeply about lavish grace, active love, and intentional community and seek to incorporate these convictions in all we do together.

How do we live this out?

We Gather...to worship together as recipients of God's lavish grace and to be stirred by the beauty of His kingdom.

Sunday morning (including times for children, youth, adults, worship, and occasional meals)

Sunday night dinner (a meal shared among diverse people with God's grace at the centre)

We Go...to share God's active love with our world.

We see everywhere we go and live as the place to live this out. We seek to be generous and involved in the adventure of being God's people in our households, neighbourhoods, and world.

We Get Connected...because we need uncommon intentional community that spans generations and boundaries to help us grow.

We seek to be involved in smaller groups where friendship and true community make us more whole and alive.

Are there any really simple ways to get involved beyond worship gatherings?

- Receive a call! Our Gracepoint Connects team is focused on making sure you are known and know how to connect into the caring and growing life of our community. When you're ready to let us know who you are through a connection card, call, or email, you will get a call from someone in your part of the city. All you have to do is simply answer!

- Find a place to serve. There are endless ways to serve alongside others, make connections, and make a difference.

- Join a Discipleship Group: there are many forms among us of life together, one will fit you!

2 Send an email to info@gracepoint.ca or call the office (604-538-1825) and talk to Tracy—she'll know who you should talk to!

God has Good News for all people!

We believe in God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created and sustains the universe and is worthy of worship.

The eternal purpose of God the Father is to create a people who will bring glory to God forever.

We believe God became human in Jesus Christ to restore the world because humans have rejected God in disobedience. Jesus taught and modeled the way of God's kingdom. He died on the cross, making a renewed relationship with God possible, and rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin and death, and frees us to live in obedience to God's will.

We believe God the Holy Spirit invites us to be reconciled with God and join God's global family who confess their faith, are baptized, and join together in the Lord's Supper. By the Holy Spirit and guided by the Bible, we seek to live as followers of Christ and invite others to experience His new life.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to turn:

- from ignorance of God to a personal relationship with God
- from bondage of sin and past mistakes to freedom, forgiveness, and healing
- from individualism to interdependence with others in the local church
- from lifestyle choices that harm us, others, and the earth to choices that nurture wholeness, healing, joy, and peace
- from hating enemies and ignoring neighbours to showing love and justice to all
- from loving possessions to sharing with all in need
- from aimless existence to a mission of representing and proclaiming God's kingdom on earth

And, we look forward to the day when God will again send Jesus to bring all things under God's eternal rule.

Adapted from the confession of faith of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, a nationwide fellowship of over 250 churches, of which we are part.



Contents

Experience
God

Engage
Our
World

Together

- 4 Pastor Rick Bayer
- 6 The Power of Invitation
Kim Savage
- 7 Spring to Life
Steve Bains
- 8 Reflections on Cracked Diamonds
and Cracked Pots
Kelley Beazely
- 9 Women of Gracepoint
- 10 The Road to Easter (and Beyond)
Gregg Baker
- 12 Kids Unlimited
- 15 Missionary Report
Kristen Corrigan
- 16 Missionary Report
Arlene Friesen
- 17 Everywhere to Everywhere
Phil Wagler
- 18 Mexico Missions
- 20 Sold Out for Good
Steve Bains
- 22 Youth and Young Adults
- 26 Syrian Refugee Luncheon
- 27 Lavish Generosity and Spirit-Led
Stewardship
Arnold Machel

OUR STAFF



Rick Bayer

Lead Pastor

rick@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x208



Kim Savage

Director of Ministry Operations

kim@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x214



Steve Bains

Community Development Pastor

steve@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x209



Tracy Baker

Director of Administration

tracy@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x204



Gregg Baker

Worship Arts Pastor

gregg@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x213



Chris Reitmeyer

Student Ministries Pastor

chris@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x211



Loree Mitton

Children's Ministry Administrator

loree@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x203



Gord Wookey

Building & Grounds Maintenance
Freedom Session Director

gord@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x205

But in your **HEARTS**
revere Christ as LORD.

ALWAYS be prepared
to GIVE an ANSWER to EVERYONE
who asks you to give the REASON

for the **HOPE**
that you have.
1 Peter 3:15

Peter admonishes us to always be ready to give an answer for our hope within us, that we as Christ followers should live with an ever-readiness because God is always breaking into our worlds and drawing people to Himself and He invites us to join Him in His grand mission.

We here in the lower mainland have seen evidence of this with the hundreds of Syrian refugees God has sent our way. Gracepointers went to the Surrey hotels refugees were temporarily housed in and brought gifts and prayers. Angels watched silently as one Gracepointer prayed with a Syrian man whose family had been surrounded by ISIS for four days back in Syria. I listened in on Good Friday morning as two regular Gracepointers shared the reason for their Easter hope with two Syrian families. This relationship with these two families continues to this day through one of our discipleship groups.

God showed up and showed off at our April church lunch as He brought 120 Syrian refugee people to join us for lunch that day. We joyfully shared food and conversation with them. One Gracepointer remarked that this is what church is supposed

to look like and another commented that it felt like “real church”.

Since that luncheon Gracepointers have reached out with food hampers, furniture, conversation, and God’s love and grace in abundant measure.

We are a church that engages our world. We do this because we are compelled by the gospel. We are people who share the living hope that we have within us. This isn’t something we manufacture or make up. We’ve been to the well and we’ve drank from the living water and we feel compelled to share the hope that we have within.

We are a church that experiences God. On Sundays and between Sundays in our discipleship groups we get filled up with God’s love, hope and grace. We connect with God daily and are revived at our soul level. Like the Psalmist (see Psalm 23), our cup overflows with the good things we receive from God and it spills out.

We of course do all this together. No person is an island. No one ministers alone. We watch each other’s backs and we move forward together by power of the Holy Spirit.



The Spirit continues to blow in great things into our midst. I believe the best days of Gracepoint lie in our future. Together we’re going to follow the Spirit’s leading. Together we’re going to obey his callings into our lives. I continue to pray with my eyes wide open that I might see what God is up to in our midst.

Recently a Gracepointer lost a family member in a tragic car accident. When I heard the sad news, I was shaken because I was on that same highway that same weekend. I remember thinking “that could have been me.” Our time here on this earth is short, regardless of how long we live. There are a lot of things we can give our lives to in our remaining days. How many of them will enable us to enter eternity with no regrets? I truly believe that being a people who together experience God and engage our world is something worth giving our life towards with our remaining days. Will you join me in a full pursuit of this worthwhile goal with your time, talents and treasure?

I am so grateful for each of you and your great partnership in the gospel.



EXPERIENCE GOD

Michael. Buzzett

THE POWER OF INVITATION



Kim Savage

Director of Ministry Operations

kim@gracepoint.ca

604-538-1825 x214

I was reminded (actually I was gob-smacked to use a very British colloquial) that there is great power and kingdom building when we invite. On six separate occasions I very intentionally invited people to attend either an event or start something with me this past month or so. The positive response left me with Holy Spirit-inspired goose bumps.

While the content and context of the invite varied, there were a few common chords that echoed. One was that we crave connection. At first it seemed a paradox to me given we all have busy lives and seem to have our little corner that we occupy in the world. But then I reflected that we all want to have a place – at our work, in our homes and families, and with our peers and friends.

Yet finding that place can be a challenge. Sometimes we feel we don't belong or fit, but more often I think we feel excluded and left out—on the outside looking in if you will. Sometimes the exclusion is thrust on us—not having the “right” perspective or position determined by someone or something external.

But, more often, I think we exclude ourselves by thinking that we don't belong, can't belong or shouldn't belong. Missing out on the beautiful community that happens with inclusion.

When I take the time to invite someone to something (anything), what I'm really doing (even without realizing) is that I'm inviting that person into a part of me, to connect with me. I am communicating belonging. I am inviting them “in.” How beautiful is that!

Invitation tends to call out abilities and talents we don't necessarily see in ourselves. When I invite someone to join me in doing something, I am saying “your contributions matter.” I am saying “you are talented in this.” I declare “you can do this!” When I seek someone out, ask them to involve themselves in something and see something we may not see in ourselves, it touches a deep, tender place where someone can offer a piece of themselves to our world.

Personal invitation, not impersonal mass marketing or general invitation, communicates worth. It says “I value”

your involvement, your perspective, your presence. The proverbial shoulder tap invites a person to engage, to give and also to receive.

Is this concept of invitation not what Jesus did when He called his disciples in the gospels. Look at Mark and Luke—look at his invitational language throughout the gospels? He invited them into something much bigger than their individual lives—He invited them, simple people with ordinary jobs, to follow and be equipped to do history making, world changing things!

Invitation and kingdom purpose have direct link. It is HUGE when we invite people to spend time with us, in our everyday lives. Don't underestimate it! We build community and relationships, opening wide the doors for people to belong and meet Jesus. Invitation makes space for people of every stripe and stand to feel valued and contribute. It is such a treasure! Don't miss out on your next opportunity to invite people to journey with you!

Spring To Life!



*See! The winter is past:
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth:
the season of singing has
come, the cooing of doves is
heard in our land.* ~Song of Songs
2:11-12

Spring has arrived and it is always a time I associate with growth. Plants are sprouting and blooming, birds are chirping (even louder) and the days are getting longer full of sunshine and daylight. Besides growth, spring is also associated with increased social interaction. Just like us, many of our neighbours are emerging out of their own winter hibernation. We can see them, going for walks, bike riding, cleaning their yards or gardening.

I spent some time this past weekend removing algae and dirt from the deck boards, followed by setting out and cleaning the deck furniture. All of this was in preparation for the

upcoming gatherings with friends and family over a barbecue supper. I also took the time to do some gardening.

In what ways do you look forward to life-enriching activities this season? Perhaps it is engaging in a spring time hobby such as gardening or beginning a home renovation project, accomplishing a personal fitness goal, golfing, tennis, biking, hiking or attending a family event. These are all great endeavours.

Spring is also a great time to sow spiritual seeds that will blossom to nourish our souls. In order to help bring about spiritual growth, consider the following ideas:

- **Connect to God.** A great way to know God is to read His word. A good place to find a Bible reading plan, especially one with variety, is found at the following website: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans> that can be read on your mobile device, anywhere you go (bus, park, beach, or at home). If you go to this site you can find varied Bible reading

plans around numerous topics. Choose the one that connects with your interests. Better yet, challenge someone to do this plan with you for a month. You can even gather with your reading partners bi-weekly to discuss "What is God saying to me through the reading?" and "What am I going to change in order to obey?"

- **Connect with God's Family.** Get to know others in a different setting by hosting a potluck barbeque at your home, local park or beach. Or if you prefer, invite the group to join you at a favourite restaurant. During the meal you can update each other with praise or prayer items.

- **Connect with the Disconnected.** A great way to take advantage of the warm weather and longer days is to invite a neighbour to your home, or ask them to join you at a local coffee shop for a snack or meal. Begin to pray about who God would have you to invite. It's amazing what can grow from a smile, and offer of hospitality. May your Spring season be marked by the rhythms of life and renewed spiritual practices.



Women of
Gracepoint

give to others. I learn His truth and then proclaim it. This is my mandate.

How can we, as cracked stones, do this? Remember the diamond? The sun didn't care that this diamond was damaged. That big ball of light in the sky used every facet to its advantage. Our God and Father can and will use us to His Glory the same way, if we align our will with His. All of us have imperfections that, perhaps, make us hesitant to believe God could use us. Yet we have been blessed with the promise of the Holy Spirit, (Luke 11:13). The risen Christ promised us power to witness through His Holy Spirit, (Acts 1:8) and in 1st Corinthians 2:13 reminds that the Holy Spirit is our Teacher. We have a Guide into all truth (John 16:13).

Perhaps the analogy of the diamond doesn't work for you. Maybe you see yourself more as a pot with dirt in it? Well, God uses cracked pots too! His love fills in the cracks—healing the hurts, restoring the relationships, covering the sins, filling us up. He remolds us and as I have been known to say, "Only God can make us cracked pots hold water!" Beloved, trust Him! He loved you where He found you but His love can and will carry you farther than you ever thought possible!

Reflections on Cracked Diamonds & Cracked Pots

Kelley Beazley

As a child, I was fascinated with light and refraction of light. I would gaze with delight at the spectrum of colour, at the depth of perception those lights and mirrors offered—making the space seem larger, brighter, than it actually was. From jewelry to chrome on vehicles, rainbows to sun "dancing" on water, my gaze lingers on the light.

My delight increased through a personal relationship with God, the Master Creator of ALL things. The Lord has heightened all my senses as I journey with Him, but I absolutely love all aspects of light. Ohh, this child of God hungers for light!

I wear a diamond ring on my right hand and for me, it illustrates the principle of light and how we are called to be a blessing for others as

we let our light reflect in the world. The ring's diamond I'm told, was damaged at one point and has a crack in it. It is no longer "perfect." Yet when sun hits it and bounces back and forth through its prismatic surfaces, (I'm sure we can all picture it), the rainbows dance on anything they can. Isn't that like our imperfect lives friends? God's light and grace flow through our cracks and we reflect His light into the world.

Years ago now, God burned His light of truth into my heart as I watched the sun's interaction with the diamond I wear on my hand. I was reminded that I am like that cracked diamond. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and His Light in my heart is to refract out to those around me. The love I receive from Him I am to

Strawberry Social

We are thrilled to announce that we are hosting our
**2nd annual
Strawberry Social
Saturday, June 4**

There is already a tremendous buzz about it: dessert, music, vendors, and garden specialist, Laurelle Oldford-Down.

Invite women who don't yet know Jesus to come and get a taste of what a relationship with women of faith and Jesus looks like.

This event should be absolutely scrumptious. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased the three Sundays leading up to the event at the Welcome Centre starting May 15.



Brunch Babes!

We have two sets of hosts with the most at Gracepoint and they are on a mission to connect with EVERY woman at Gracepoint to foster belonging, connection and ignite relationships. Quite simply, they are **AWESOME**. I'm talking about Harjit Bains, Sharon Bell, Heather Dyck, and Sheila Bayer. Every month, these four women host a brunch and shoulder tap women they don't know in our congregation to come and share a Saturday morning with them.



At this point, you might be thinking "Hey, they haven't invited me yet..." Well, here's what you need to do: Muster up a little bravery and the next time you see them, stride on up and say "I'd love to come your next brunch, when is it?" At this point, these fantastic ladies will say "we have a spot for you, come ____." They will get to everyone but you don't have to wait! Budge in line and invite yourself! They (and you) will love it! PS – Harjit makes the BEST coffee cake EVER!

A Call to Prayer

It is a deep-hearted request that we ask you to pray for the Strawberry Social. We want this event to reach many unchurched or unsaved people and we are trusting God to lead them to this event. Please pray that many "seeds" will be planted and watered that day and that those who already know Jesus will be refreshed in their journey with our loving Lord.

Gratitude

Heartfelt thanks to those who serve through the Women of Gracepoint. The unity that we get to experience as each of us serve in different areas of creativity and call is a treasure. As we use our talents and abilities, we model a servant's heart and love for the women in our church.

A place for you!

Do you have a heart to serve with other women? Do you want to be part of a team that wants to reach women in our spheres of influence? Do you want to get involved and connected? Do you love to hostess or plan events? There is a place for you at the table! Contact women@gracepoint.ca or a staff

person to get plugged in. We would love to meet you and empower you to use your gifts among us!

For more information about Women of Gracepoint, please contact women@gracepoint.ca.



We are taking the message of "Beloved Daughters of the Most High King" on the road and will be ministering to women in Mexico during the missions trip this summer. We have a burden to be Jesus' hands and heart, lifting the heads and spirits of the women in San Quintin—communicating care, compassion, value and love.

In preparation for our ministry, we are making **Love Lifts** packages for our Mexican sisters (dress kit,

nail polish, bracelet etc.) and we hope you will consider buying one and sponsoring hope in the life of women in Mexico. As a treat for you, you will get a bracelet to remind you that you too are a beloved daughter of the King and our connection and sisterhood with women around the world.

Want to help make the Love Lifts packages? For more info, contact kim@gracepoint.ca.



There are few things I like better than finishing a very busy season well and taking time to reflect on “what was” and how God provided, guided and encouraged us all the way along. Living in the afterglow of Easter always provides this welcome opportunity for reflection.



Gregg Baker
Worship Arts Pastor
gregg@gracepoint.ca
604-538-1825 x213

This year the road to Easter seemed precariously short. Kind of like trying to get a 747 to take off from a small airstrip meant for single engine props only. I have to admit, I was more than a little tempted to scale things back for 2016. Maybe we didn't need to have a Holy Week full of multi-sensory worship services with multiple entry points this year. But then again, we don't serve a God-of-the-scaled-back, or one who holds back when it comes to lavishing us with every spiritual gift in Christ Jesus. So instead we pushed the throttle all the way forward!

Thursday evening of Holy Week about 80 people gathered in the lobby around tables, or sat on

couches or rocking chairs to share communion and commemorate Jesus' last supper with His chosen disciples. I would like to thank Trevor Buwyer, Gareth Braunberger, Sheila Bayer and Tracy Baker for forming a great worship band for the evening and Tristan Peters and Luke Baker for providing all the technical support. Worshiping Jesus together starting with rehearsal to the Upper Room service was a balm to my soul for the week. And thanks to Pastor Rick for leading us to the Lord's Table.

On Good Friday we were all invited to take part in another very powerful Tenebrae service. The eleven piece worship band led by Tennyson

was outstanding while Pastor Steve Doerksen from White Rock Community Church delivered a characteristically creative message to set up the invitation to nail our sins to the cross and literally see them covered by the blood of Christ. Such a profound moment. Many thanks to our readers, Annie and Deb Mitchell, Vince Penner, Nick Knechtle, and our dramatic poet, Deanna Pfortmueller. My heartfelt thanks to the worship band: Rod and Joel Melnyk, Rick and Gareth Braunberger, Ron Koehn and Barb Steele. Including our brothers and sisters from White Rock Community Church there were 25 people directly involved in the production of this worship service. For me this is the hallmark of a great worship service: Jesus is worshiped and LOTS of people are actively involved in the work of doing so!

Finally, what a celebration full of colour and light, baptisms and the Risen Christ! What could be better? Thank you so much to Pat Corder and Margit Tonelli for an excellent stage design and to the entire crew

...continued next page...





Wanna Jam?

Do you like to sing or play an instrument?
Then come join us at SUNDAY JAM!

Every 1st and 3rd
Sunday 2-4 pm
downstairs in
the practice room



who helped us change over from Friday to Sunday. What a huge job! How different the same space feels on Easter Sunday from Good Friday.

If you are reading this article and you have not taken opportunity to walk the full journey of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday because of a busy schedule or being unsure what is all about, may I boldly recommend that you take out your calendar right now and mark out Holy Week 2017 (April 9-16)? I assure you it will have a tremendous impact on your ongoing walk with Jesus.

KIDS UNLIMITED

Filled to Overflowing!!

You may have noticed—we hope you have noticed—that we are experiencing tremendous growth in Kid's Unlimited! We had nearly 60 kids last week in our Sunday kid's program and we, unabashedly, are looking for some people who want to invest in our smallest disciples, helping them to experience what a relationship with Jesus looks like, feels like, sounds like and IS like.

We have a unique opportunity in this upcoming season—KU has several youth who are willing, eager and more than able to volunteer in KU. They are energetic and want to foster the faiths of our small ones.

BUT, we need a few “grown-ups” to come along side and mentor these youth as they teach and shepherd in KU. Could that be you?

It's an amazing, kingdom-purpose filled position to join in the work happening in those classrooms and learning spaces. More importantly, it is an opportunity to be part of a team and be known. It's not all work and no fun. It's laughter, prayer, discipleship, joy and growth. It's where community can happen and be built.

Consider joining the action in KU—we would LOVE to have you join us!



Monthly Theme:

Each month, Kids Unlimited will have an underlying theme for the lessons in addition to the content of the sermon series.

Check out the website for this month's theme!

Memory Verse:

Scripture is a gift and we want our kids to value it early. Check out your child's take-homes. They will have the memory verse on it. Help them practice it so those words can be written on their hearts!

Calling ALL PARENTS

Over the next several months in KU, we are going to PLAY, a lot! We are going to try-on being more dramatic, more theatrical, more expressive and more relational. We are going to experiment (sometimes a little and sometimes a lot) to see how we can have the most influence on their spiritual development. We only have an hour per week with them and you have many, many more than that in just one day. We will be playing with tools to explore what “works” within our Gracepoint culture.

We invite you into this exploration! Join us on a Sunday downstairs, linger in the teaching time, offer your ideas, be willing to contribute, volunteer. We want to partner with you and collaborate on KU form and function. It will be an exciting adventure! Hope you will take part!

Little-people Disciple Makers Needed!

Join us as we help kids learn how to have Jesus in their life. It's always an adventure and we would LOVE you to have you be a part of it.

Contact Loree at lore@gracepoint.ca or Kim at kim@gracepoint.ca for more information.

KIDS UNLIMITED

FOR CHILDREN FROM 1 MONTH TO GRADE 5

Gracepoint's kids' ministry offers Sunday, midweek and seasonal DISCIPLESHIP opportunities to foster hearts and minds in little people as they Experience God and Engage our World Together.

Children are led and loved by an incredible team of volunteers who invest into our kids weekly. Our desire is to help each child discover God in a personal way and partner with parents as they nurture their children's faith.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." Ephesians 3:20

POLICIES

KIDS UNLIMITED CHECK-IN

(for kids 2 years - Grade 5)

Check-in at the KU table in the lobby before the service. Worship with your kids in-service until they are invited to the front and dismissed to their teaching time with their leaders. Parents are more than welcome (and encouraged) to accompany their children to their classes. Please check in babies 0-23 months directly in the Nursery.

KIDS UNLIMITED REGISTRATION

(for kids 0 years - Grade 5)

If you're new or haven't already completed a KU Registration or Visitor Form, please do so you can stay up to date on what's happening. Visit the check-in table in the lobby today.

KIDS UNLIMITED DROP-OFF / PICK-UP

For safety purposes, children (Nursery-Grade 5) should remain with their parents until they are dismissed from the service. Parents must pick up their children immediately following the service.

CLASSES

NURSERY

(0-23 months)

Parent-Participation Nursery opens at 10am. Volunteer Caregivers will be on duty to supervise and assist in the Nursery once children are dismissed from the service (approximately 15 minutes after the service begins).

The Fireside Room is available for nursing moms from 10am until noon.

Baby Mum Mums are available upon request as a snack. To keep the Nursery allergen-free and food-safe, no other food is permitted.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

(2-3 years & 4-5 years)

Parents of preschoolers are welcome and encouraged to accompany their children downstairs to their classes when dismissed from the service.

ELEMENTARY

(Grades 1-5)

Children join their grade group outside of Studio A before going in for their large-group teaching time. They will then go to their small group classroom. Parents pick up after the service in the classrooms.



ENGAGE
OUR WORLD

Mar 19th
Hoffman

MISSIONARY REPORT:

Kristen Corrigan

Gracepoint Missionary

We are delighted to present to you:



École de théologie
évangélique du
Québec, abbreviated
as ÉTEQ

The new identity ÉTEQ, takes elements from the two denominational school histories:

- From the Mennonite Brethren: École de théologie évangélique de Montréal (ÉTEM), formerly Institut Biblique Laval (IBL), and;
- From the Christian and Missionary Alliance: Institut Biblique VIE (IBVIE) and a CMA predecessor called ETAQ (Enseignement théologique de l'Alliance au Québec).

With the blessing of their church families ÉTEM and IBVIE have joined as one school, partnering with other schools and universities to prepare women and men to serve Jesus Christ in the francophone world. Over the past five years of operating together, the two schools have developed three certificate programs, one bachelor's degree and a new master's degree.

We believe ÉTEQ will continue to serve God's Kingdom in many ways. To name a few:

- Setting an example of how Christian groups can work together in a secular, post-Catholic context;
- Establishing an economy of scale – better use of financial and human resources;
- Building a solid base of well trained, professional teachers and staff;
- Building partnerships where few have existed before;
- Strengthening our relationship with Laval University.

In the book of Ezekiel, particularly in Ez. 37:15-22, we read of symbolic events that seem to speak into this kind of joining together what would normally have stayed separate. Ezekiel holds up two pieces of wood inscribed with the names (Judah and Joseph), to show that what was once distinct is now to be joined. There is no doubt that this passage may be a basis for a wide variety of interpretation and application, however, in the case of our two schools becoming one, we take as our example this image of two pieces becoming one, two schools uniting under God.

Will you join us in praying for the men and women who study and serve at ÉTEQ? May each and every one be better prepared to know and serve Christ wherever he or she may be called!



Jean (John) Martin, Ph. D.
Dean



Kristen Corrigan, MA
President

*The use of "du" instead of "de" in the name changes the geographical focus from the narrow designation Montreal or Quebec City to include the whole Province of Quebec, which is the primary region we serve.

MISSIONARY REPORT: Independent Living

Arlene Friesen

Gracepoint Missionary serving with Youth Unlimited

"Cindy" had been coming to school in the same clothes every day, not able to shower. She has shared that sometimes they had no hot water to wash herself or her clothes. She had a continuing case of head lice. The amazing staff at the school had been very busy with keeping the head lice at bay for the last few years. Cindy has parents that are continuing to deal with their drug addiction which has led to the removal of Cindy from her home. She has been in foster care for over a year now. In November, a staff member asked if I would become more involved in Cindy's life. It has been an eye opening experience for me to see such pain in this young girl as she is trying to make sense of it all. She has an amazing attitude despite her circumstances. We are building a trusting relationship over time as we spend time together.

She has recently been placed into her second foster home due to circumstances that were beyond her control. She now has to adjust to a new home, new and different family and possibly a new school; she feels like she is starting all over again. I cannot imagine what it would be like to be in her shoes. My commitment to her as a Youth Unlimited worker is to be the constant adult in her life from here on. That is what we do well in Youth Unlimited.

I was reading in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy, where God talks to us about taking care of the orphans and widows. There are far too many orphans in our community. God has called us to take care of them.

I have had an eye opening few months as I work alongside these young kids at an elementary school in our community. I have been walking alongside many kids that fit the category of being an orphan.

What does that look like today? It can be kids who have a parent or parents who have checked out due to their own life problems. There are parents who have signed over their teenagers to the government to be put on "independent living" which we have heard about a lot in the news. Teens are living in hotel rooms, some feeling alone and abandoned. These are some of our orphans today.

Please pray for me as I continue to walk with Cindy through this difficult time of change and uncertainty. She has been let down by so many different people in her life. I pray that she can count on our God even when life is full of challenges beyond her control.

We are called to look after the orphans and I am blessed to be able to do this with your help. I thank you for your prayers as well as supporting me in the call of serving youth in our community.



MISSIONARY REPORT: Everywhere to Everywhere

Phil Wagler

MB Mission

Take a close look at this picture. What do you see?



Prayer? A light? Somebody playing a keyboard? A really tall guy?

I took this picture in April while attending an MB Mission AWAKE weekend in St. Catherine's, Ontario. The picture is a fascinating window into the marvelous diversity of the mission of God in the world; a mission that is from everywhere to everywhere.

Here's what you're looking at:

- A Laotian couple (purple sweater, blue and white jacket on left) who have just responded to God's call to return to their homeland from the security of life in Ontario to introduce Buddhists to Jesus. He was once on the path to being a Buddhist monk. Oh, and he's 70 years old!
- A Mexican who grew up in Oakland, California (black t-shirt in the middle) who gave his life to Jesus in college and has now given 15 years to building an orphanage and church planting in Thailand.

- A young woman (white shirt on right) who is months away from leaving Canada to join church planting in Portugal. She can't quite explain the deepening love she has for the Portuguese, but it's truly moving her!
- That tall guy and other followers of Jesus from the Niagara area (gathered in prayer around the other 4). They had just spent the day on mission together in their own city, discovering that mission



is here, there, and everywhere.

Now, what do you see here?

Yes, that's the Gracepoint building and you may be in it! This picture was taken in April when our church family hosted over 100 refugee families for lunch on a Sunday afternoon.

Since we live in a multi-cultural city like Surrey we may miss the wonder of this moment. The tragic displacement these new friends of ours have experienced has brought people we as a community could never before have reached right into our neighbourhoods. This is a marvelous wonder and calls us

to realize the mission of God is everywhere—and everywhere is coming to where we are.

So, let us awake...

- How did Jesus find you wherever you were?
- Who did he send your way?
- Who has he given you a growing love for?
- What part of the picture of Jesus mission are you uniquely suited for?
- What will this demand of you?

Phil Wagler serves on the lead team of MB Mission, giving strategic leadership to the area of training. Seek him out when Gracepoint is gathered.





So maybe you have heard, maybe you haven't but there is an amazing team headed to San Quintin Mexico this year to build two homes for families who love Jesus, but struggle with poverty and the realities facing the majority of people in that community.

While in Mexico, this team will have opportunity to build the homes, connect with the families, take VBS (Vacation Bible School) to the streets in the neighbourhood and offer a women's ministry to demonstrate the boundless love and care of Jesus practically and emotionally.

We know that not everyone can go, but we have the privilege of sending this team and supporting their efforts from home. Take the time to ask team members about their prayers and hopes for their trip, financially support efforts through sock puppy sponsorships, build-a-house sponsorships, donations etc.

The team is already well on its fundraising way through various activities including a bottle drive, Cinco de Mayo and a movie night.

Here's a collage of what they have already been doing!



México missions







Great things happened on April 15, 2016 in support of something even more great! A lot of money was raised and a lot of community happened! It was a sparkly, beautiful night where our people and our networks said with their time and resources "Community Dinner matters," "people matter."

For the past 19 years, 52 weeks a year, the Gracepoint Community Dinner has fed the hungry, elderly, lonely, hearing impaired, mentally ill and working poor in the main hall of Gracepoint. Those in need are provided with a homemade meal and friendship in a welcoming, non-threatening, non-judgmental and safe environment. We regularly serve people of all ages, from seniors, to mothers with babies and young children.

On average, the Community Dinner serves 200 guests per Sunday. While

this program is intended to be both delicious and nutritious with dinner usually including salad, vegetables, a meat dish and dessert, there is more nourishment to be had. Along with food for the body, there is a nightly devotional that reminds our guests we cannot live on bread alone. Prayer and counselling are offered for all those seeking further assistance.

In order to support the cost of providing a weekly dinner, a fundraiser has been held for the last three years. This year's fundraiser was the largest ever. With over 280 guests in attendance, the event was sold out a few days in advance. Not only was the dining room packed, but also the church lobby was filled with guests hoping to out-bid one another on the more than 175 items featured in the silent auction.

During the evening, Vancouver Groove Orchestra wowed the

audience with their big band sound. A few guests rightfully hit the floor to show off their dance moves. I particularly enjoyed the manner in which they arranged and played a few hymns. You will never hear a better rendition of "It Is Well". Surrey City Councillor Vera Lefranc was happy to model one of several cakes (baked by Gracepointers) during a cake auction. Speaker and author Richard Lemieux shared his own story of how he went from success to attempting suicide, to finding hope at a community meal. He reminded those in attendance that offering a plate of food to someone is offering hope.

Extending hope is what the Sunday Night Community Dinner is all about. The fundraiser allows us to continue offering hope in tangible ways to those who need help the most.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Sunday Night Community Dinner, please contact me at steve@gracepoint.ca or just show up at 4:30 pm to join us for dinner to observe and/or take part.





**T.H.A.N.K.
YOU**

Together, we raised

\$39,350.44

in support of Community
Dinner this year!



YOUTH ON A MISSION

As we head into the summer months, we want to feature a number of our awesome youth and young adults who are trying to join God as He moves in their lives.

Kelsey Southworth



This summer I will be volunteering at Camp Luther as a leader for the first week of July. I have been volunteering at this camp for the past five years and every summer it is always such an amazing experience. As it will be my last time volunteering before I leave for Australia, I am looking forward to being able to spend time with the amazing group of people as well as having the opportunity to see God working in the lives of the campers. Prayer is always appreciated for having patience with the campers and being able to teach them more about God. Also to pray for all the kids that will be coming throughout the summer to be open to hearing Gods word.

Caitlyn Klassen

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-20

Every Sunday morning for six years, from the time I was in grade three until now, I have listened to that song. I heard it when running to KU or walking to youth. I heard this song for years and didn't quite grasp what it was telling me, until now. This summer I have the honour of going on the missions trip to Mexico. We will be working in San Quintin from July 2-10. As a teenager, I am going for the experience and for the people I get to help down there. I convinced one of my friends to come down with me (Emily) and I am looking forward to spending time together and growing closer to God with her. If I were to ask for prayer on this trip, it would be for the safety of the group going down there and for the people in Mexico that we are successful in making their life better. Thanks for all the support for the group going down THIS SUMMER 2016.

Rebecca Dick



This summer I am heading to Mexico from July 2 to 10 with a group of people from church. When we are down there we will be building houses for two different families. I have been looking forward to going on this trip to help serve for a while now. I am excited to meet the families we will be building the houses for and to visit the church in the area. I am also very excited to help build a house and actually try to use a hammer. One thing that I could use prayer for is that I would step out of my comfort zone and not stand behind the scenes but step forward and do things that I wouldn't usually do. I am more of a person who likes to wash dishes than stand in front of a group of people so I would love prayer that God will help me through that.

The easiest way to stay up to date with all that is happening with Gracepoint Youth is to contact Chris (chris@gracepoint.ca) and ask to be added to the weekly email. We also have a calendar you can check out on the Gracepoint website under the youth tab.



Danika Melnyk



For the duration of one week this upcoming summer, I will be joining 26 others for yet another Missions Trip to San Quintin, Mexico. This will be my fifth time working with One Life One Chance in the San Quintin Valley and I can't wait for another great experience. It wasn't an easy decision determining whether or not to participate in this year's trip, however God has opened my heart to the Mexican people and my summer would be incomplete without them. Despite the numerous trips, each year seems to be a completely different experience and God reveals himself in various ways. I am looking forward to seeing the previous families we've built houses for, getting to know the new team members, but most of all, witnessing God actively work through our lives to build His kingdom here on earth. Over these next few months, I would ask for prayer for the families we're going to be building for, my parents as they are busy organizing and sorting out the details of the trip, and for God to speak through each of our lives.

Mark Fenske



My name is Mark Fenske (aka Sawdust to campers) and I'll be working at Camp Luther in Mission, BC this summer. I'll be working there for a couple weeks as a junior counsellor. I am going because it is a great way to serve both God and the community. Kids get a chance to take a break from life and just be kids, having fun and learning about God. I am really looking forward to getting to know all of the kids that I'll be spending time with as well as I can in the short time I'll be with them. I would like prayer for patience, because as fun as the job is it can be very tiring and prayer for the kids, that they would listen during Bible study and ask questions so that their faiths can grow.



Thursday Discipleship Groups Grades 6-12

Our weekly Thursday meetings are about gathering to care for one another and grow in our faith. We always spend part of the evening as a larger group before we break into smaller age specific groups.



Leadership Development Grades 10-12

This group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Gracepoint with the specific intention of developing our older students into leaders both within the church community and at their schools.



Junior High Break Away Grades 6-9

This is a bi-monthly opportunity for our younger students to gather for some more intentional teaching on Sunday Mornings. Students will be dismissed along with our Children's Ministry and gather in the youth room on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

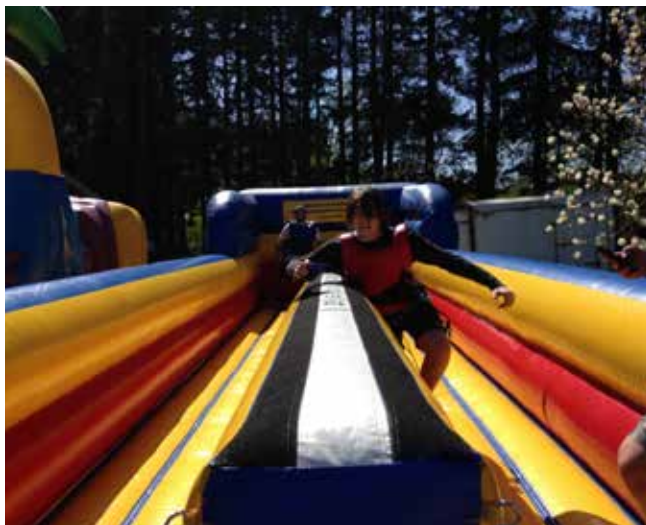


GRACEPOINT YOUNG ADULTS

We gather monthly as young adults for a potluck on the first Sunday of the month. We also gather weekly at Vince and Dana Penner's house in Cloverdale. For more information, contact chris@gracepoint.ca



Pictures say a thousand words so we will let these photos speak for themselves. They illustrate the connection, fun and joy that happened that weekend. Our youth came back with fresh perspectives, challenged in their faith and journey with God. Enjoy!



TOGETHER



Syrian Refugee Luncheon

"You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners..." Exodus 22:21

On Sunday April 10, at our regular church luncheon, Gracepointers welcomed with open arms and open hearts approximately 120 recent Syrian refugees. All had been picked up that morning by a 15 passenger van and a heavily overloaded 54 passenger bus. Some were also driven to our church by Gracepointers who have developed relationships with several refugee families.

Ernie and Marie and kitchen team prepared a wonderful Hallel lunch which Gracepointers and guests enjoyed. Though separated by language and religion, Gracepointers utilized technology such as 'Google Translate' and lots of gestures to interact with our guests and demonstrate the love of Christ. There were lots of activities for the kids as they did a craft, received a balloon animal and got to pick a toy from the "toy store" of gently used toys donated by Gracepointers. There were many smiling faces, hugs and expressions of thanks from our new Syrian neighbours as they

boarded the bus and van back home.

The vision for the luncheon began when Gracepointers began to visit the Syrian refugees in the Sheraton and Sandman hotels in the Guildford area. Some remained there day after day through our rainy weather with little to occupy their time. By the time of our luncheon, they had all been moved to homes in the Surrey/Delta area and the bus picked them up at a few locations.

Since the luncheon many Gracepointers have continued relationships with some of our guests, particularly through our discipleship groups. One Gracepoint senior began chatting with the two women and their kids who were sitting at her table using the Google app. After the luncheon she asked the simple question: "how can I serve you?" Initially reluctant to answer the question, the Gracepointer asked one of the women again, "how can I help you?" The lady

confessed that she and her husband and three kids only have the clothes on their backs as they were only allowed to bring 22 lbs of luggage with them on the flight. This Gracepointer exchanged phone numbers with her and they went shopping the next day finding outfits for the whole family.

These relationships will continue in the months and years ahead as Gracepointers continue to ask that vital question "how can we serve you?" and together we'll don the towel of servanthood and love our new neighbours in Jesus' name.



Lavish Generosity and Spirit-Led Stewardship

On May 29 we will be holding a Financial Town Hall to discuss both the 2015 financials and our 2016 budget. In case you will miss the Town Hall, below is our 2016 budget and a few highlights from last year. The full 2015 Financial Statements are available by requesting them from the church office.

2015 was a turning point for Gracepoint in many respects and I think it's fair to say that we are currently in the strongest financial position we have been in for many years: we have stewarded well –

being disciplined in our spending and generous in our giving (i.e. the refugee finances being raised in a single offering!) My prayer is that this continues as we are blessed with resources and opportunities.

We approach 2016 with Spirit-led stewardship that allows for room to be a little nimble and follow where God is calling us, as He calls us this year. We are able to balance needs of our ministries and people with the obligations and responsibilities inherent to building ownership.

On behalf of the Leadership Team and staff, I want to thank all of you for your support of Gracepoint—whether financial or through prayer, volunteerism and involvement—it has contributed to the stability of our church and our ability in 2016 to thrive and follow God's kingdom purposes for us well.

Arnold Machel
Treasurer

2015 Financial Highlights

- Our total receipts in 2015 were \$1,058,383.
- General donations for the year were \$836,039; about \$36,000 more than we had budgeted for.
- Out of that excess we gave additional support to our MB Conference and we increased the amount in our Contingency Reserve Fund so that we are in a better position to deal with any future capital costs.
- The Contingency Reserve Fund currently sits at \$42,400.
- You gave \$34,349 towards supporting our refugee family. That money is being used this year to help them get established in East Beach.
- Our operating expenses were \$950,977—about \$215,000 less than the previous year and about \$34,000 less than we budgeted for.
- The growth we experienced towards the end of 2015 gave us a bit more flexibility when establishing the 2016 budget.
- Currently our donations are tracking at about 1% over budget.

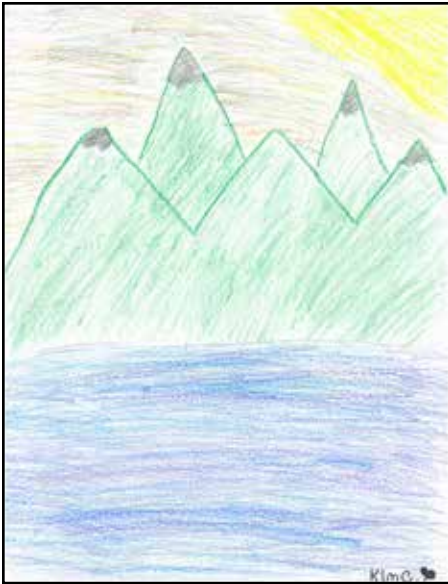
2016 Budget

Income



Expenses





What are these pictures?

The art you've seen featured throughout this edition of Connection Point was created by our incredibly talented budding artists in Kid's Unlimited.

Thank you to Pat Wiens for leading the kids through this art experience!

They created some amazing pictures!

