

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: www.pgimf.org E-mail: info@pgimf.org

April 17, 2005
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Angela Ekkert, J. Evan Kreider will lead us in song, Ruth Enns will be accompanying on the piano, and Erna Freisen is your usher. Later will hear from Janice Kreider whose sermon will be entitled "I am the Gate" from John 10:7-10. Mark Greenstreet will be with the toddlers in the nursery, and Danica Thiessen will be with the Sunday School class. Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.

Last Sunday: David Brubacher, an old friend to several in our congregation, now serves as conference minister to MCEC. During his time in Israel recently, he heard from Jews, Muslims and Christians each desiring to see the reign of our common God established. He spoke on conflicts - in Palestine, listening to stories of loss from Romi, a Jewish Israeli and Abdl, an Palestinian Christian who, despite their differences, found they shared a common bond - and in our Mennonite Church conference where some are creating differences among Christians who should be pulling in the same direction. In the embrace of Romi and Abdl, God's desire for the world is seen, despite the 8m high wall. What is our response to differences here at home? David points to the John 10 text as a good example of people missing the point. "Are you the Messiah?" the crowd asks. Jesus wonders "Will they ever get the point?" He did not fit their expectations since he came not as warrior-king, but as shepherd, and the people thought he just have a demon. How familiar that story sounds to individuals, families and communities. He came not to restore their fortunes along with those of the kingdom, but to give a more valuable treasure - eternal life. The church must own its primary call to be a blessing, just as God told Abraham in Gen 10. John 10 concludes with the words that Jesus and the Father are one. Therefore the church must also find expressions of unity as it seeks to do His work. We must be a blessing especially to those we might name as "other". David asks you to pray about how is God calling you to be his partner in His work. [AP]

PGIMF News:

Please join us for pre-service hymn singing at 9:45 as we work our way through the book from 1 to 658.

Upcoming speakers

April 24	Don Teichroeb	Membership Sunday
May 1	David Leis	-
May 8	David Giesbrecht	-
May 15	Jake Buhler	Touching the Enemy

AGM Just a reminder that next Sunday after the service will be the Annual General Meeting for PGIMF. All are welcome to discuss the budget, say thanks to former church officers and welcome new ones. Pizza lunch will be served in the lounge before the meeting and after the service.

☹ Let us remember Henry Klippenstein's sister-in-law who died suddenly this week. Keep Henry and Louise safe as they travel to Calgary to be with the family.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

Food and fellowship – the two activities which always have a way of strengthening our church community.
Please consider coming to this year's RETREAT. Registration forms will soon be available...

From May 27th – 29th, let's refresh our fellowship in vision and mission.

WE, AS LIVING STONES ARE BEING BUILT INTO A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

1 PETER 2:5

Watch this box weekly for more details...

& feel free to speak to anyone on the retreat committee (Herb Reesor, Diane Ehling, Kathryn Schmidt, Kris Schmidt, Cynthia Friesen)

The Wider Church

MBMSI VENTURE IN VENEZUELA. Brandon Duran is an MBMS International missionary in Venezuela. He teaches English and Bible at Academia Christiana Internacional in the city of Caracas. He asks prayer for his time outside the classroom when he is mentoring young people and sharing his faith in God.

The **British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches** is holding its Annual Convention this year April 29 & 30 at Columbia Bible College. Welcome new churches into our conference, hear Paul Wartman speaking on Yearning for God and meet others in our MB Church family. For details or to register as a delegate or a guest please visit www.bcmb.org or call 1-888-653-9933.

This is an invitation for you to attend our **Annual BC Women in Mission** Inspirational Day on Sunday, May 1st at Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church, 2051 Windsor Street, Abbotsford. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m., but registration, coffee and displays will open at 1:30 p.m. The afternoon will conclude with supper served by Eben-Ezer Church at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 per person.

The **Mennonite Historical Society of BC** invites you to two events on the weekend of May 14th & 15th, 2005. On Saturday, 14th May they will be conducting a Memorial Cemetery Tour consisting of 3 cemeteries, South Poplar, Greendale, and Yarrow. Each cemetery will have hosts to give a brief tribute to some of our forbears. This will culminate in a Faspah at the Yarrow MB Church with a brief commemorative service with Dr. John B. Toews. For more information and your free Faspah tickets call the MHSBC office at 604-853-6177. On Sunday, 15th May at 3:00pm at the Central Heights MB Church join us for the "Mennonite Piano Concerto" featuring Irmgard Baerg & Betty Suderman, there will also be a choir singing Hymns of Faith & Hope. Tickets are \$10.00 call MHSBC office at 604-853-6177.

Abbotsford artist Sharon Huget will hold an **exhibit** of her art called "Nard" at Highlnad community church, 3130 MacMillan, Abbotsford. Sharon's acrylic canvases are informed by Christ. Friday April 29 opening 7-9 pm, Saturday April 30 5-9 pm including integrated Taize worship service, and Sunday May 1 1-4 pm

Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had

everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1Peter2:19-25

¹⁹For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his

mouth.”²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John 10:1-10

The Shepherd and His Flock

¹“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do

not recognize a stranger's voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”