

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

August 1, 2004

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Andre Pekovich; Erna Friesen will be leading us in song and Cynthia Friesen will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Janice Kreider who will speak to us from the lectionary on the theme "you are not your possessions". Parents are encouraged to make their own arrangements for child care this summer as there may only be occasional child-minding available. Please stay with us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Last Sunday: Last Sunday Henry Neufeld spoke on "Integrity as a spiritual discipline". We sometimes think of spiritual disciplines as being only the very private activities such as fasting, praying, meditating and reading. Henry proposed that integrity, although never really listed as a spiritual discipline, is so integral to the Christian life that it should perhaps be considered a spiritual discipline. Job, an ideal in many ways, was judged by God to be "blameless and upright", and Ps. 31 asks that we be "judged according to our righteousness and integrity", but otherwise, integrity seems to be assumed rather than stressed in scripture. If we have integrity, we consistently live according to a code of morality, keeping our word and promises, and are faithful to our relationships. Although this seems both obvious and simple enough, too many people act otherwise, sometimes without realizing their lack of integrity. Some publicly claim to honour the sanctity of life (possibly by abhorring abortions) but then work to support the death penalty and war. Nobody even expects political candidates to keep all of their promises. Students plagiarize freely, and the media continually tell stories of behaviour which lacks integrity by people in business, government, church, family and the various professions. While we profess to be believers, "our actions speak louder than our words." In Matthew, Jesus advised us to tell the truth and to hunger for righteousness (living correctly), and James argued that faith without action is dead. Henry therefore concluded with the prayer, "God, grant us grace to live with intentional integrity," suggesting that this type of living should not be accidental or sporadic, but purposeful. [JEK]

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

August 8	Charles Paris	The role of Saints in the Catholic Church
August 15	Veronica Dyck	
August 22	Paul Wartman (CBC)	
August 29	Paul Thiessen	Communion

 Just wanted to remind you that there are no food groups assigned for the months of May, June, July and August 2004. If you wish to bring goodies and make coffee for any of the weekends, there will be a sign up sheet posted at the bulletin board near the mail boxes. Have a great summer! - HANNELORE SCHOWALTER

PGIMF has a credit note at the Abbotsford **House of James** Christian supplies store for approximately \$50. If there is anyone with a valid need for the church to purchase materials or literature for services or children's ministries, would they please see Ann Marie Neudorf for advice and confirmation.

Please note that while Kevin, our webmaster is in South America this August, that the website will not be updated for a few weeks. If you have needs normally fulfilled by the website (especially friends far away), please contact Andre Pekovich, the coordinator, andrep@pgimf.org and we will do our best to keep you informed.

Moderator—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);
Pastoral Care—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); John Friesen (604-266-7819) *Music*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

PGIMF 18th Anniversary Celebration

John and Erna Friesen are planning the 18th anniversary celebration of our church on Sept. 26, 2004. A potluck is being planned after the service. The theme of this year's celebration is gratitude.

We are grateful to God for the 18 years that this church has been a community of service and worship. We are a community of faith with human limitations and frailties. But despite this, we have traveled these 18 years with gratitude and cheerfulness. " Our past life has been brim-full of God's goodness and our sins are covered by the forgiving love of Christ crucified."(Bonhoeffer). We wish to celebrate with gratitude God's grace in the life of this church. We wish to make this a participatory worship service. We invite you to consider making a few comments on the theme of gratitude for the 18 year journey of this community of faith. These comments can be framed in many forms such as personal statements, artwork, symbols of appreciation, musical renditions, etc. etc.. Your creativity and imagination is welcome.

Please inform Erna or John of your willingness to participate in the service by responding to this e-mail before September 10. An order of service will then be prepared with suitable readings and songs and a short devotional by Walter Bergen our former member, intern and Menno Simons Center coordinator. We look forward to hearing from you regarding your willingness to make a contribution to the service.

John & Erna

The Wider Church

MBMSI JOINING THE JOSTS THROUGH PRAYER. Craig and Fabiana Jost are MBMS International missionaries in Portugal. They ask prayer for: Adélia and Américo who need Christ; upcoming Alpha courses and parenting classes; the Josts themselves as they develop plans for the next 6 months.

Webmaster's Corner

The following recent talks are now available for download as MP3 files from our home page at <http://www.pgimf.org>

Sun. July 4 "Naaman; Psalm 30; The Mission of the Seventy" by Evan Kreider **12 MB**

Sun. July 11 "Zechariah 1,2,3" by Brian McConaghy **22 MB**

Sun. July 18 "Role of the Holy Spirit" by Rosie Perera **8 MB**

Sun. July 25 "Integrity" by Henry Neufeld **8 MB**

Still available for download but no longer linked from our home page are:

Sun. June 6 "Restorative Justice" by Wayne Northey

Sun. June 13 "Psalm 32 & Luke 7" by Don Teichroeb

Sun. June 27 "Poverty" by Margaret Carey

As usual, CDs of entire past services are available for borrowing. If you are out of town and would like to listen to a prior sermon that isn't linked any more, just let me know -- I'll upload it and provide you with a temporary link.

Kevin Hiebert

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

1 :² Absurd, says the Teacher, absurd! All is absurd.

1 :¹² I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³ applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is absurd and a chasing after wind.

2 :¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after

me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is absurd. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is absurd and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is absurd.

Psalm 49

¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
² both low and high,
rich and poor together.
³ My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
⁴ I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.
⁵ Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
⁶ those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?
⁷ Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,

there is no price one can give to God for it.
⁸ For the ransom of life is costly,
and can never suffice,
⁹ that one should live on forever
and never see the grave.
¹⁰ When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.
¹¹ Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,
though they named lands their own.
¹² Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
they are like the animals that perish.

Luke 12: 13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will

pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Colossians 3: 1-17

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according

to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.