

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

February 1, 2004

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Ken Friesen; Evan Kreider will be leading us in song and Cynthia Friesen will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Henry Hildebrand. Heather Shantz will be with the preschoolers, and Nadine Neudorf will be with the toddlers and nursery, while Jeff Schultz and Angela Ekkert are in charge of Sunday School. Please stay with us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Last Sunday: Last Sunday, Janice Kreider spoke on the four texts proposed by the Lectionary, focussing on the theme, "The Word of the Lord and our response" (Nehemiah 8:1-10). As an important administrator in the expansive Babylonian Empire, and also confidant and wine-taster for the King (some people have all the luck), Nehemiah was granted a Leave of Absence, military escort, letters of introduction from the government, and permission to rebuild Jerusalem. Under his authority, the destroyed city's walls were reconstructed in 52 days. To celebrate this symbolic achievement and the arrival of Jewish New Year in Palestine, Nehemiah had Ezra read from the Pentateuch in the plaza before the new wall's Water Gate. Upon hearing the scripture, people were distressed that they had not been keeping the Law properly and wept, but Ezra asked them to rejoice instead. Janice then contrasted this reception of scripture with the one accorded to Jesus after his first sermon. At first, they admired his ability to speak, but when he then interpreted scripture too radically for their staid tastes, they actually ran their home boy out of town. What is our response to scripture and its interpretations? Do we just turn to favourite "safe" passages and interpretations, do we also examine passages and interpretations which make us uneasy? [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

February 8	Rosie Perera
February 15	Edward Epp
February 22	
February 29	Paul Thiessen

An invitation to exhibit.

At the last congregational meeting interest was expressed to feature the works of one or two creative people in our midst for a month at a time. This involves two and three dimensional work such as painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, quilting etc. If you are interested in this project please contact Hildegard Scheffler-Lemke at 604- 298 3314 or e-mail [available upon request].

John Friesen is the cello soloist with the Sinfonia playing Saturday, Feb. 7th, 04 at 7:30pm in the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre at 2300 Lonsdale. He will be playing Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations and another piece by Glazunov with the symphony. Tickets are \$20.00 for seniors and students and \$25.00 otherwise and can be purchased by calling 604 984-4484 or at the door.

Please see the bulletin board at the back of the church for a letter from **Rebecca (Sack) Moseley** now living in in Poughkeepsie, NY.

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*—Eric Hannan (604-325-5065)
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Additional "Sound Helpers" are needed for upcoming Sundays to make the recording during each service. The "Hospitality Team" schedule on our web site (or the QuickBase link below) shows you which of the upcoming Sundays still need a volunteer to contact me.

I can train you for 5 minutes this Sunday when I'm doing it so that you can be familiar with it in advance. It isn't difficult at all -- the 1st page of the Word document (see link below) lists the few steps that you need to follow (it's as easy as making coffee). You don't even need to have a computer at home because you can just give the CD to Evan Kreider to pass along to me and I'll make sure that it gets copied and returned.

At last Sunday's congregational meeting it was decided that for privacy reasons we will not be recording the sharing/response time, prayer concerns, prayers or announcements. The recording will be paused when the speaker is finished and will be resumed for the benediction and any closing hymn.

Cheers,
Kevin

The Wider Church

MBMSI FAITHFUL IN FRANCE. Russ and Marj Speiser are MBMS International missionaries in France. Pray for them as they partner with PROCLAIM! International, teaching worship and evangelism throughout Europe using creative arts.

Regent College lectures Donald Bruce Engineering Genesis: The Ethics Behind the Genetically Modified Food Debate Wednesday, February 11 at 7:30 pm in the Chapel at Regent College

GFCF Lectures Graduate and Faculty Christian Forum lectures presents OWEN GINGERICH, Professor of Astronomy and History of Science, Harvard University, Wednesday February 11th 2004 in Hebb Theatre, 2045 East Mall
"Dare a Scientist Believe in Design?"

The natural universe seems full of amazing features that lead us to exclaim "What wonderful design!" Yet many scientists argue vehemently against the notion of supernatural design and a Designer. Can entertaining the idea of superintelligent design cripple a scientist in his work? Professor Gingerich, will explain why he believes that a scientist can contribute effectively while holding a belief in a purposefully designed universe. More information: Paul Stanwood 604-822-4020 or Jochem Roukema 604-827-5007

There is word from Vienna that the prayer request and call to action from MC Canada printed in the bulletin January 18 for **Ricardo Esquivia** of Columbia has been in some part fulfilled. Through Andrea Lange in Germany, we understand that discussions have occurred between Justapaz and the Mennonite Church in Columbia, and the Government departments involved in the smear campaign against Esquivia, and that the situation has received international attention has slowed the progress of the smear campaign. Although there is no safety yet, the Mennonite Church in Columbia wants you to know that they are grateful for those of you who interceded with letters, e-mails and prayers. More information is available on the bulletin board in the hall.

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POSITION VACANCY

Coordinator/Administrator Position - Menno Simons Centre Student Residence

The Menno Simons Centre is a residence for 22 students attending the University of British Columbia and Regent College. The Centre is seeking to employ a married couple, one of whom would work three-quarters time as Residence Coordinator for a minimum of two years. The couple, both of whom are important to the Centre's community and student life, would live in the one-bedroom suite in the residence. Preference will be given to applicants who have attended university and are familiar with the Anabaptist tradition (e.g., Mennonite, Baptist). The couple is expected to participate in the Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship which meets at the Centre. The coordinator oversees the room bookings, correspondence, book keeping, building maintenance, Residence Assistants, and weekly community meal. The coordinator is guided by the Menno Simons Centre Committee, which is responsible to the Society's Board of Directors. This position will commence during the summer of 2004 but no later than September 1. Letters of application and résumés may be e-mailed to [email available upon request], faxed to 604-221-0497, or mailed to The Menno Simons Centre, 4000 West 11th Ave., Vancouver BC, Canada V6R 2L3. For more information about the position, visit www.mennosimonscentre.com or contact Stacy Folk, Residence Coordinator (604-224-6551) for a tour of the Centre. Applications will be reviewed in March and thereafter until the position is filled.

Humour? - or Inspiration?

A man on a safari in Africa took his faithful pet dachshund along for company. One day, the dachshund began chasing butterflies and before long, discovered that he was lost. Wandering about, he noticed a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch.

The dachshund thought to himself, "I'm in deep trouble now!" Then he noticed some bones on the ground close by and immediately settled down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard was about to leap, the dachshund exclaimed loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the leopard halted his attack in mid-stride, and as a look of terror came over him, he slunk away into the trees. "Whew," said the leopard. "That was close. That dachshund nearly had me."

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figured he could put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. He went after the leopard with great speed. But the dachshund saw him and figured that something must be up.

The monkey soon caught up with the leopard, spilled the beans and struck a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard was furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

The dachshund saw the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thought "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sat down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet . . . and just when they got close enough to hear the dachshund says: "Where's that darn monkey? I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard."