

## POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org) E-mail: [info@pgimf.org](mailto:info@pgimf.org)

December 7, 2003

*Second Advent*

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Steve Thiessen; J. Evan Kreider will be leading us in song and Cynthia Friesen will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Vange Thiessen. Mark Northey and Angela Ekkert are in charge of Sunday School, while Janice Kreider and Charmaine Wiens will be with the toddlers. Please stay with us after the service for coffee.

**Last Sunday:** Last Sunday Dan Nighswander (Executive Director of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada, about 250 congregations) introduced the First Sunday of Advent by encouraging us to try being less impatient, less hurried, to delay singing Christmas carols until Christmas Day. The argument made by some is that Jesus obviously has already been born, so why wait, why pretend? Dan suggests that the very act of waiting may be good for us. After all, we are supposedly waiting for the Second Coming. Some preachers make a livelihood by attempting to interpret the 'signs of the times', much as in Christ's time, but Jesus essentially said that we should not 'read tea leaves', we should just look at ordinary tree leaves. They grow, get old, and eventually fall to the ground. Even so, the Second Coming is that inevitable. The signs? Wars, environmental anxieties, terrorism, refugees fleeing, genocide, fear of diseases, fear of failure, depression. Jesus says, "Stand up, raise your heads, for redemption is near." We believe that God is about to enter this world and take care of these things. Meanwhile, we await The Coming (Advent), watchfully preparing . . . or do we mainly go shopping? [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**

December 14	Henry Kliewer (MCBC)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent
December 21	Messiah singalong	4 <sup>th</sup> Advent
December 28	Henry Neufeld	
January 4		Epiphany

**Abendmusik** presents choral singing and responsive readings and prayers selected from across the centuries for Advent. Music will include movements from William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*, a mediaeval carol written by the Chancellor of Paris in the 1200's, a dialogue carol from France (sung in English), works for choir and organ by Bach (*O Jesu Christ, mein Lebens Licht*) and Faure (*Cantique de Jean Racine*), and a song that is rapidly becoming a favourite, *Deal gently with thy servants, Lord* (a song from the American shaped-note tradition of the mid 1800's). Tonight December 7 at 8:00 p.m. Knox United Church 5600 Balaclava at West 41st Avenue.

**New Address** Herb Reesor's new e-mail address is [herb777@lightspeed.ca](mailto:herb777@lightspeed.ca) -- other details haven't changed

### The Wider Church

**HOPE FOR FOR LITHUANIA.** Melanie Humphreys is an MBMS International worker in Lithuania. As Dean of Students at Lithuania Christian College, Melanie desires to teach and nurture students in the love of God, in character and in leadership skills. Please pray for her today.

**Pacific Theatre** presents their production of **THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE** (running Nov 28 - Jan 4) at the Norman Rothstein Theatre, 41<sup>st</sup> and Oak. For tickets, call 731-5518 or

[www.pacifictheatre.org](http://www.pacifictheatre.org).

*Moderator*—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Worship*—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961);

*Pastoral Care*—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245); *Music*—Eric Hannan (604-325-5065)

*Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);

### **New Members**

On January 4, 2004 we will hold a service to receive new members into the PGIMF community. If you feel called to become a member of PGIMF, please contact a church board member for a conversation about your faith journey and about formally joining PGIMF. You are also welcome to transfer your membership on this date. If you have membership in another congregation, please ask for a letter of transfer from your home congregation. Notice of your desire for church membership will be shared with the congregation several weeks prior to January 4. On January 4 you will have an opportunity to share your faith journey with the congregation. If you have questions, please approach any church board member for a discussion.

Board members: Don Teichroeb (604) 221-8720; Veronica Dyck (604) 323-0634; Ann Marie Neudorf (604) 984-7453; John Friesen (604) 266-7819; Herb Reesor (604) 224-5245; J. Evan Kreider (604) 228-1217; Henry Neufeld (604) 946-3961

**Spanish lessons?** Cristobal will teach Spanish from the beginner to advanced level for a reasonable fee or in exchange for French Classes. Contact him at 604-450-4302 or send e-mail to: [greendream3000@yahoo.com](mailto:greendream3000@yahoo.com)

The staff at the MCC Refugee Centre invite you to an open house Christmas tea on Thursday Dec 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the office 660 East 51<sup>st</sup> Ave and Fraser St., Vancouver. Come and find out what PGIMF is support with our donations! RSVP 325-5524 or [vaurefugee@mccbc.com](mailto:vaurefugee@mccbc.com)

**MC Canada** This is the final quarter of MC Canada's fiscal year. As of Nov 28, 64% (\$2.5 million) of MC Canada's donation budget has come in. This Christmas, consider making a gift in support of the many MC Canada ministries at home and abroad. Thank-you to our generous givers!

In God's Image by Ray Dirks is a project of the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery in Winnipeg in cooperation with Mennonite World Conference. Larry Miller, executive secretary of MWC, has written the introduction.

Many of you have already responded to our earlier mailing regarding the just released book, In God's Image: a global Anabaptist family. We believe this book should be in every Mennonite home and church library. Soft cover copies of the book are available in this way for \$23.00 plus GST and shipping. Orders of more than a few books drops the per book shipping cost drastically. The retail soft cover price is \$29.99 plus GST. The retail hardcover price is \$34.99. For more information or to place an order, please, contact Veronica Dyck. In God's Image is a celebration of our global family of faith. It includes nearly 300 full colour daily life photographs and images of art from 17 countries - the US, Canada, Cuba, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, India, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Taiwan and Japan. It also includes faith stories from each of the participating countries. Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery curator Ray Dirks wrote, designed and did most of the photography for the book. The photographs and stories come out of his personal experiences living with ordinary families in each country.

### **Christmas Party!**

Sunday December 14 at 7:00pm in the chapel at Menno Simons Centre. Bring a dessert or appetizer/snack or one drink bottle/jug. Also looking for a few volunteers to help set up and clean up. We will be singing carols, hearing special music as well as readings and of course the Christmas story. If anyone else has something to share please let us know. The service items will be intermittent instead of one long program so that we can visit. We will make up a program so that people will know what to expect, and will be over by 8:30 pm, with more visiting to follow. See Diane or Carman for your contribution. Merry Christmas! Please ask for RSVPs to either of our email addresses so we can know how many people are coming. (and always expect more!) Diane and I are meeting after church to talk through details. I will be able to come early to set up and decorate. I have candles etc, are there nice table cloths?

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