

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

December 14, 2003

Third Advent

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Don Teichroeb; Nubia Martens will be leading us in song and Angela Ekkert will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Henry Kliewer who will be speaking on 2 Peter 3:1-15. Angela Ekkert and Jeff Schulz are in charge of Sunday School, and Heather Shantz and Nadine Neudorf will be with the toddlers. Please stay with us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Last Sunday: Vange Thiessen led us through four themes for Advent. The first was "waiting for Christmas." Waiting is common in our lives - we don't like to do it, but we have to nonetheless. We have experience waiting in many forms - waiting for a job, a marriage, the death of a loved one. God calls us to wait as Mary did, in the company of others. The second theme is we are afraid. We are afraid to wait patiently, as it often leads to change. Kathleen Norris on the mystery of the message of the Annunciation, reflects on Mary's example of the fear in the time of waiting for Jesus to be born. God calls us to open our heart, and wait. Third, people who are able to wait and watch, have hope. Active waiting, as Mary and Joseph did, directs us inward to our inner life, and to communion with God. The fourth theme gives hope - the outcome of waiting is peace. May we discover the God of waiting is also the God of peace.

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 21	Singalong Messiah	4 th Advent
December 28	Henry Neufeld	
January 4	Membership Sunday	Epiphany
January 11		

E-sermons If you can connect to the internet, especially with a high-speed connection, you can access the MP3 files of the past three sermons (Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7). Each one is about 10MB for 25 minutes which should only take a couple of minutes at most to download using Cable/DSL. Nov. 23rd will be disappearing on Sunday to make room for the next recording (Kevin has found a way to fit 2 or 3 past services on the site instead of just 1). As usual, the full CDs are available for borrowing -- just look on the table below the sound cabinet and be sure to sign the disc out using the "card catalogue" in the little green box. Thanks to Kevin for setting this up!

Children's Song lyrics We are learning a new song with the children. Here are the lyrics of the first two lines of the song.

"Christmas is coming, the church is glad to sing
And let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring."

Paul Thiessen will be leaving for Uganda early in the New Year to stay and teach at Watoto pediatric ward of the Mbarara Regional Hospital for a month. He has offered details of how short of medical supplies, especially antibiotics, the facility is. He is accepting donations to purchase and take with him a supply of the antibiotic ceftriaxone for intravenous use. **If you would like to make a contribution to this purchase, please let Paul know and he would be happy to accept your donation.** We will holding a dedicatory prayer time for him on the Sunday December 28th service.

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);

Sing-along Messiah Next Sunday (Dec. 21) PGIMF will host its traditional sing-along Messiah on Sunday morning. Invite your friends who like to sing (or listen to) the Messiah and if you have copies of the music, bring them along to supplement the copies that PGIMF owns.

Christmas Party!

Tonight at 7:00pm in the chapel at Menno Simons Centre, we will celebrate Christmas!. Bring a dessert or appetizer/snack or one drink bottle/jug. (Hmmm, where's that recipe for mulled wine?)

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 you want to share a favourite song, it's not too late.

The service items will be intermittent instead of one long program so that we can visit. See Diane or Carman for your contribution. Merry Christmas, and see you there!

The Wider Church

MBMSI HOPE FOR FOR BURKINA. Today please pray for Colin and Dot Suggett, MBMS International workers in Burkina Faso. Since 1995 they have been living with the Turka, studying the language and culture, and developing a system to write the scripture in this language. This translation was begun in September 2001.

Gift-giving When you can't think of what to give for the person who already has too much, make a break with our materialistic culture! Give a gift that really matters - give to MCC's special giving projects. Jesus calls us to enter into people's lives, joys and struggles - and MCC Giving Projects can be your link. When you decide to support a Giving Project, your family, small group, Sunday school class, congregation or Vacation Bible School becomes part of the story of MCC workers and partners in North America and around the world.

www.mcc.org/respond/projects/ .

MC Canada 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!

MDS MDS All-Unit Meeting will be in British Columbia on February 13 & 14, 2004. All those from the U.S. planning to attend will need a passport or their birth certificate and a government issued photo ID to cross the border. Contact either office for more information about these meetings.

Church Music Conference Explores Diversity "Sing a New Song," a one-day church music conference hosted by Emmanuel Mennonite Church and coming February 28, 2004, is intended to help participants look at how they can incorporate the diversity of music that is available to us today into their own worship services.

Plenary sessions, led by **Dr. Mary Oyer** and Angela Neufeld, will focus on both hymnody and contemporary music and will also explore the role of global music in our church context. Workshops led by Dr. J. Evan Kreider and Katherine Funk, will give practical tips to those who lead singing and those who play the piano.

This conference is for anyone who has even the tiniest spark of enthusiasm for music in the church. It will be a wonderful, perspective-expanding, inspiring day, the kind where sparks are kindled to flame! For details about sessions and workshops, costs, and to download a registration form, visit www.emmanuelmennonite.com

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Humour - found on the website of a frustrated choir director.

IMMORAL, IMPOSSIBLE, GOD ONLY KNOWS

(Tune: St. Denio - Mennonite hymnal #70 - Immortal Invisible God only wise)

1. Immoral, impossible, God only knows
how tenors and basses, sopranos, altos
at service on Sunday are rarely the same
as those who on Thursday to choir practice came.

2. Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,
nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their
throats.
the descant so piercing is soaring above,
the melody only a mother could love.

3. They have a director, but no-one knows why,
no-one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.
It' s clear by his waving, he wants them to look,
but each of them stands with his nose in the book.

4. Despite the offences, the music rings out.
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts are so deep,
but it is no wonder, for they are asleep.

Original, verse 1, by Austin Lovelace.

Verses 2-4 added by Ron Hodges (choir of St. Mark's, Palo Alto, California, USA) for the church's 50th anniversary in November 1998.

2 Peter 3

The Day of the Lord

¹Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ²I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

³First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is this ' coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God' s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping

his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵Bear in mind that our Lord' s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

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