

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

January 25, 2004

World Fellowship Sunday

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Henry Klippenstein; Eric Hannan will be leading us in song and Ruth Enns will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear from Janice Kreider who will be speaking on "the word of the Lord and our response". Mark Northey and Erika Hannan are in charge of Sunday School, and Heather Shantz will be with the preschoolers and toddlers. Please stay with us after the service for potluck lunch. Our congregational meeting will follow immediately after lunch.

Last Sunday: Last Sunday, John Friesen spoke on the theme in 2 Peter 3:11, "what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness?" Each culture, religion, generation and denomination tries to answer this question in its own way. Varying voices in modern society chime in as well, offering such things as self-help books on just about every aspect of living, and differing psychotherapy theories. John then noted that even the thinking of some Enlightenment writers attempted to answer this question by encouraging people to think of the human mind as one of the greatest achievements of all created things. Others have subsequently given precedence to human thought (and individualism) rather than God, and more recently, to people preferring to work and think alone rather than within a Christian community. On the other hand, when some Christians attempt to answer St. Peter's question within the context of a Christian community, like the Pharisees, they emphasize ethics which depend upon works rather than personal relationships. John concluded by reminding us that Jesus developed ethics in which action flows from an attitude of love rather than from rules. [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.

New Address: Jimmy Hackett & Susan Dudoward (aka Mr and Mrs Hackett)
[contact information available by request only]

Bible Study The Friday morning study group will meet at Ed & Frieda Epp's, at 9:30 am.

Upcoming speakers

February 1	Henry Hildebrand
February 8	Rosie Perera
February 15	Edward Epp
February 22	

e-Members Welcome to the latest members of our congregation to join the electronic church! **Susie Funk** can now be reached at [email available by request] and you may leave messages as well for **Betty** and **Annie Funk** as well by putting their names in the subject line. (Only one Luddite - er, holdout - left, now. You know who you are!)

e-Church In response to a general query, the webmaster estimates that two to three users per week download the sermons from our website. This is not a firm figure, as it is only based on the total increase in traffic flowing through our site.

Paul Thiessen See the bulletin board at the back of the church for a letter from Paul Thiessen in Mbarara, Uganda, where he details his adventures [more details available upon request]. Paul is

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

prepared to receive e-mail from people but warns that the connection is quite slow, so no big files please! (From an e-mail earlier this week.)

The Wider Church

MBMSI MINISTRY IN NORTH AMERICA. Andy and Carmen Owen, MBMS International workers in Thailand, are currently on MINA and visiting churches in the Midwest US. They would covet your prayers for safety and good health as they travel with two young boys. Pray God to anoint their ministry as they share God's faithfulness to the Kingdom work in Thailand.

MDS The 2004 MDS All-Unit Meeting will be held February 13 and 14, 2004 in Abbotsford, British Columbia at Emanuel Mennonite Church. Most out of town registrations are in now, so please take the opportunity to attend the meetings and learn about the work of Mennonite Disaster Service locally, especially after Firestorm 2003, but also learn about the bigger picture and what is happening North America-wide. **You can now register on-line at the PGIMF website by following this link:** <http://www.pgimf.org/archive/mds04reg.pdf>.

Mennonite Historical Society The Mennonite Historical Society of BC presents guest lecturer Dr. Heinrich Loewen, archivist of the Centre in Winnipeg, and his topic "Umsiedler" Saturday, Feb. 21st, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Park Tower; 2825 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford. Entrance is free and refreshments will be served. Come enjoy an interesting evening exploring a part our Mennonite story

Thomas Merton Society of Canada and **Vancouver School of Theology's Chalmers Institute** are co-sponsoring two public lectures by Jim Forest, writer and peace activist on Feb. 6 & 7, 2004.

- Fri. Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m. **Merton, Nouwen and Icons** at Canadian Memorial United Church, 15th & Burrard.

- Sat. Feb. 7, 2:00 p.m. **The Spiritual Roots of Protest** at Vancouver Public Library (Central Branch, Lower Level)

Prayer to Age Gracefully

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.



Jim is the author of *The Ladder of the Beatitudes* and *Confession: Doorway to Forgiveness*, as well as *Living With Wisdom: A Life of Thomas Merton*. In 1989, he received the Peacemaker Award from Notre Dame University's Institute for International Peace Studies, and he serves on the advisory board for the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. An influential factor in Jim's life was his friendship with Thomas Merton who dedicated Faith and Violence to him. Cost of each lecture is \$10.00. For more info: 604-669-2546, or email [available upon request] or see www.merton.ca.

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, using both modern and historical examples will explain why he believes that a scientist can contribute effectively while holding a belief in a purposefully designed universe. He will examine why design

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

arguments are so strongly resisted by most of the scientific community, and will in passing give a brief critique of the "intelligent design" movement at 4:00 pm. For further information, contact: Paul Stanwood 604-822-4020 or Jochem Roukema 604-827-5007

Regent College 2004 CHRISTIAN IN THE MARKETPLACE CONFERENCE Spirituality & the Workplace: The Latest Fad? Saturday, February 7, 2004 Is marketplace spirituality an oxymoron? Address these questions with Harry Robinson, Paul Williams, Paul Stevens and Patti Towler. Tickets \$75/\$55/\$40. Register at Regent bookstore, by mail or online at www.regent-college.edu/SpiritWork.

Pacific Theatre - held over! *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* has been held over until February 1st. If you haven't seen this excellent production of C.S. Lewis's classic gospel primer, you can still take it in on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and weekends matinees at 2:00 pm at the Norman Rothstein Theatre, 41st and Oak. Tickets \$13.00 to \$26.00 or call (604) 731-5518.

Public Lecture "Caring for God's Household, by Dr. Sallie McFague, Author of "Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril. This will be a theological response to concerns of the environment and the economy in the 21st Century. Free. Tuesday January 27th 7:30 pm., St. Phillip's Anglican Church, 3737 W. 27th Ave. Vancouver.

Project Ploughshares "Letter to Paul Martin - The missile defence won't protect us." Read the letter from Ernie Regehr, executive director of Project Ploughshares to Prime Minister Paul Martin urging him to reconsider any involvement in the North American Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD). Project Ploughshares has an excellent report available on line (also see the link to Project Ploughshares on PGIMF's home-page) outlining why BMD will increase the cost of waging war, and make the likelihood more certain, rather than protecting citizens from war. **PP** is an ecumenical peace centre of the Canadian Council of Churches and affiliated with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. <http://www.ploughshares.ca/>

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Nehemiah 8: 1-10

When the seventh month came—the people of Israel being settled in their towns—⁸ ¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴ The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Psalm 19: 7-14

⁷ The law of the LORD is **perfect**,
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are **sure**,
making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of the LORD are **right**,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is **clear**,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of the LORD is **pure**,
enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are **true**
and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than **gold**,
even much fine gold;

sweeter also than **honey**,
and drippings of the **honeycomb**.

¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Luke 4: 14-22

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

I Corinthians 12: 27-31

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.