

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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July 20, 2003

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Veronica Dyck; Evan Kreider will be leading us in song and Cynthia Friesen will be accompanying on the piano. Later we will hear a message from Wally Braul "Creativity and Faith". Just a reminder that there is no children's church in the summer months and parents are encouraged to make their own arrangements if minding is required. Please stay with us after the service for a coffee and goodies.

Last Sunday: Henry Hildebrand encouraged us to think more deeply about sacrifice, and why it is so central to what we believe. With constant accompaniment from scripture from Genesis to Hebrews, Henry took us through the historical centrality of sacrifice in all religions, not just Judaism and Christianity, and introduced the elements of substitutionary sacrifice and differentiating it from offering. The parallels between followers of Moloch who were to sacrifice their first-born, and Abraham's experience with his son Isaac indicate the common root of this ritual, and it is not until the transformation of Judaism to a monotheistic religion as late as perhaps the 7th or 8th c. BCE that the shedding of human blood in sacrifice is made purely symbolic. The elements of the ritual continue today, in our attitudes towards our military - the unification of a nation does not come out of the deaths of its enemy; rather it comes out of the deaths of its own soldiers in a substitutionary sacrifice, and here Henry emphasizes the parallels of sectarianism with nationalism. The world was turned upside down again over Christ - the old ways were not effective at restoring relationship to God, or they would not have had to be done again and again. Yet though the language is the same, the principle is different, so that though Heb 9:22 states that "without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" it is tempered with the knowledge that the blood of One shed for all is now enough for that restoration. Henry's parting thought from John 3:16 is "what was the magnitude of the debt that demanded of God the sacrifice of his only Son?" [AP]

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. This Sunday, we will begin with hymn number 287.

Upcoming speakers

July 27	Charles Parris	The sacrament of reconciliation
August 3	Ray Bystrom	-
August 10	Laura Sportak	-
August 17	Evan Kreider	Acts 11

Prayer requests: by request to congregational coordinator or webmaster.

Additional copies of the hymnal have arrived to replenish our supply - for some time now some people have had to share when the house was full. We have purchased a few extras as well - anyone who wants to purchase one, please see Andre. We will keep the cost at \$25.00 for now.

Please continue to see Mark Greenstreet so that children's stories can continue in the services this summer. Alternatively, can worship leaders please consider plans to include children in the service in some small way? Your effort is truly appreciated by the smallest among us.

Moderator—Don Teichroeb (604-221-8720); *Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)*—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);
Pastoral Concerns—Herb Reesor (604-224-5245), Sue Dudoward (604-876-4114)
Worship—Henry Neufeld (604-946-3961); *Music*—Eric Hannan (604-325-5065)

The Wider Church

Regent College The Regent summer lectures series continues this week with Andrew Walls (OBE) speaking on Monday, July 21 on “*Christianity after Christendom*”. Walls is the Curator of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World, University of Edinburgh. Free lectures begin at 8:00–9:30 pm in the Regent College Chapel unless otherwise stated. These lectures tend to draw large crowds, so plan to arrive early for a good seat.

Our Annual Ecumenical Service in the Park on Jun 22 resulted in an offering which was split equally between two projects of the six sponsoring churches. A cheque for \$509.81 has been forwarded to the Presbyterian World Service and Development organization specifically for assistance to the people of the Congo, and will be received with grateful thanks.

MCC Relief Sale Paul Thiessen would like to plant the seed of our participation in the MCC Festival, Auction and Relief Sale to be held this year on Sept 12-13 in Abbotsford. Last years successes in the new location included a larger number (by far!) of non-Mennonite visitors and non-church people than ever before. After successfully branching out into cappuccino last year, what could be next? As always, we look for inspiration to the Count of Cappuccino, the Earl of Espresso, the Duke of Decaf, Mr. Edward Kehler! (Take it away, Edward.)

Amish Virus

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Thanks for your cooperation.

Amish Computer Engineering Dept.