

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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July 23th 2006

Today: Welcome to Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship. This morning, our service will be led by Andre Pekovich, Ann Marie Neudorf will lead us in song, Kathryn Schmidt will accompany on the piano and Rovin Karuna is your usher. Later we will hear from Laura Sportack who will be speaking on "Psalm 15: The Moral Mystery". Sunday school is finished for the season, and parents are requested to make their own arrangements for child care during the service. Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.

Last Sunday On July 16, 2006, Ruth Enns spoke on the lectionary gospel reading (Mark 6:14-29) telling of the death of John the Baptist. Ruth has often dealt with Salome by Richard Strauss, an opera whose success made this the most popular biblical story on the classical musical stage. The gospel tells us that Herod Antipas (Jesus called him "that fox") led a life which attempted to bridge the opposing lifestyles of Judaism and the Roman Empire. Herod's marrying the former wife of his living half-brother was forbidden by Jewish law and repeatedly criticized by John the Baptist, possibly even in Herod's presence before his courtiers. Although John's preaching made Herod's court very uneasy, Herod was nevertheless fearful that John was a man of God. The historian Josephus wrote that John's death was political and designed to squelch a possible uprising, but the gospel writer concluded that it was prompted by Herodias and her revenge for John's decrying her marrying for power, by John's telling the court truths it did not want to hear. As Ruth surveys centuries of interpretations of this gripping story of human frailty and faith, she is fascinated by the layers of psychological interpretations of painters, playwrights and composers, but finds herself most drawn to John, that steadfast rock of faith, that 'voice in the wilderness' which finally dared to enter the city and echo through Herod's palatial halls and the consciences of its inhabitants, challenging the little nation's most powerful ruler to live an upright and moral life. This cost John his life, but even his death came to be seen as foretelling Christ's death. John spoke out, regardless of the consequences. We are more careful. [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

July 30	Liturgical service	Forgiveness
August 6	Gordon Stewart	-
August 13	Anne Scarrow	Intercessory Prayer
August 20	TBA	-

Coffee hour signup! Our regular year for food groups having come to an end, we now rely on volunteers to supply coffee during the summer season. Please see the [coffee signup sheet](#) on the bulletin board in the back of the church to sign up to provide coffee during the summer. It is our greatest outreach, some would say, and one in need of constant volunteers over the summer. but if you would like to bring baking, that is also much appreciated.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

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*—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430)
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

New church list Please check your information on the wall outside the chapel. Also please help us update anybody of whose vital statistics you are aware. A new list will be distributed shortly.

The Wider Church

MBMSI PRAY FOR PANAMA. Einer and Girlesa Zuluaga are MBMS International missionaries in Panama. Pray for this couple working as church planters among the indigenous people groups of Panama. In joint partnership with the Colombia MB conference, they give leadership training to national workers encouraging new leaders to rise up and be involved in ministry.

Regent College Come hear the continuing series of free public lectures in the summer series at Regent College. This week hear Darrell Johnson speaking on *Did Jesus Himself Ever Claim to be God?* On Monday, July 24, at 8:00pm. On Wednesday July 26th also at 8:00 pm, please hear Quentin Schultze speaking on *Listening for God's Call in a World of Instant Messages.* All lectures are in the chapel - come early for good seats.

Regent College Please note the weekend seminars available at the 2006 Regent College History Conference beginning Friday July 28th at 7:00 pm . The topic is *Fundamentalism and Modern Culture* and you will hear Regent luminaries such as Geroge Marsden at 7:30 p.m. with a free public lecture speaking on “*How “Otherworldly” Fundamentalism Became Political Power*” On Saturday July 29, you may hear:

- Donald M. Lewis, “*Evangelicals and Jews Together*”: *The Origins of Christian Zionism* 9:00 am
 - Michael J. McClymond, *Why Five? Articles of Faith, Creedal Subscription, and the Fundamentalist Call for Doctrinal Consensus* 10:30 am
 - Darren Dochuk, *The Southern Errand: Making Sense of Region, Religion, and the Rising South in Post-World War II American Politics* 1:00 pm
 - Bruce Hindmarsh, Chair Roundtable Discussion *Fundamentalisms & Modern Culture* 2:15 pm
- Cost: \$15 (tickets available at Regent Bookstore). Allevents will be held in the Regent College Chapel.

MB Herald Please pick up or borrow a copy of the MB Herald Vol. 45, No. 09 June 30, 2006 for an issue devoted to *Art and Imagination* with some excellent articles on how art can deepen faith even while it seeks its inspiration from faith.

Call to worship

My child, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
turn your ear to wisdom
and apply your heart to understanding,
and if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,

Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair – every good path.
For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

(All)

Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

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Psalm 15

Yahweh, who can find a home in your tent,
who can dwell on your holy mountain?

Whoever lives blamelessly,
who acts uprightly,
who speaks the truth from the heart,
who keeps the tongue under control,

who does not wrong a comrade,
who casts no discredit on a neighbour,
who looks with scorn on the vile,
but honours those who fear Yahweh,

who stands by an oath at any cost,
who asks no interest on loans,
who takes no bribe to harm the innocent.
No one who so acts can ever be shaken. [NJB]

1John 4:7-12, 16b-19

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another,

God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

^{16b}God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. [NRSV]

Ex 24:1-11

¹Then he said to Moses, 'Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship at a distance. ²Moses alone shall come near the Lord; but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.'

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.' ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt-offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. ⁶Moses took

half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. ⁷Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.' ⁸Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, 'See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.'

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹God did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; also they beheld God, and they ate and drank. [NRSV]