

Your NFC

AUGUST 30, 2013

A WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER FOR
THE PEOPLE OF THE
NEWBERG
FRIENDS CHURCH
COMMUNITY



Steve



Michelle



Cindy



Mauri



Elizabeth



Eric

PASTOR QUARTERLY REPORTS: SEEING GOD

Steve Fawver

pastor, spiritual health and care

I have seen God through the simple ways those in the NFC community have been living out the “one another” scriptures (love one another, serve one another, carry one another’s burdens, encourage one another, pray for each other...). Below are just a few of the specific examples of God showing up among us that I have observed:

- A warm and supportive hug given to a family member feeling the loss of a loved one.
- A smile sent across the room.
- A word of affirmation written on Facebook in response to powerful sharing by those among us on Sunday morning.
- Cookies, coffee, and ice water waiting for those gathered for a reception after a memorial service, placed with love and care.
- A grandparent lovingly holding a grandchild.
- Gentle and heartfelt prayers being offered for the children dedicated among us.
- Caring friends and family sitting with those sick and on the edge of heaven’s gates.
- A simple, powerful, gracious word of thanks spoken.
- An arm of support offered as a steady presence.

As I write these my mind and heart are flooded with gratitude and joy for the chance to see God show up in so many of you. Flashes of memories of love being expressed fill my thoughts. May we continue to find the simple ways of loving one another and live them out as an expression of God coming into the world each and every day.

Cindy Johnson

My year as coordinator for senior ministries has been filled with blessings as I minister among those who want to spend time with “Just Older Youth” who can no longer get out to church. Ron Stansell and Heather Denton serve on the *Friendly Visitors* team. Merrill Johnson and Jim Jackson regularly visit Friendsview residents. Lois Smith, who lives at Friendsview, visits my mother and others. These visit on their own, but I count them as *Friendly Visitors* anyway.

If you would like to visit a shut in, to pray with them or listen to them, to sing with them or just sit and hold their hand, it will fill you with joy. Just give me a call or a tap on the shoulder and let me know.

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Published weekly
for the purpose
of information and
community connectedness

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Michelle Akins

pastor, children and family ministries

Although my area of responsibility includes families and women's ministries here at NFC, summertime is predominately about kids. Programs such as 3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance) and Women's Bible Fellowship take a break and I enjoy a summer focused mainly on the younger members of our congregation. Sometimes this is a great thing—but a few Sundays ago I found myself staring blankly into the eyes of a third grader.

I fancy myself a pretty good Sunday school teacher, but this particular morning my plans were being tested in every way, and I felt sorely lacking in “child-management skills.” As I tried to get the group of 11 kindergarten through 5th graders to pay attention to the Bible lesson, it was clear this was not going to “work” the way I had imagined. The wiggly kids were set on “extra wiggle.” The child who “doesn't like Sunday school” let it be known to the entire class and me in a loud voice as I instructed them all to turn to 2 Chronicles. He then proceeded to put himself in a trash can, much to the class's delight. The tired one sprawled out on the carpet, put his Bible over his face and proclaimed “it's dark in here.” Another ripped some pages in the borrowed Bible while flipping back and forth trying to find the New Testament. The girls and boys chatted and giggled while I plunged deeper into the lesson, determined to get through the curriculum I'd prepared. A volunteer helped by taking two of the most disruptive children in the hall, leaving only 9 kids for me and a second volunteer to reign in.

Somehow I made it through that lesson, and we regrouped outside. The game I created on the spot went surprisingly well. We made a circle and threw the red ball to a friend while saying a characteristic of love. We threw the white ball after naming a quality of God. They paid attention and rattled off some great things about who God is and what love means. The game came to an end; snack was about to be served. I glanced at my watch. If open worship didn't go too long we might have only about 5-10 minutes left of class. I took a deep breath. I knew there was no way the majority of the class would go back in and do the worksheet ... even if it could be cut, folded, and stapled into a little book about God and his totally awesome love.

And *then*—the question I've never been asked by a child: “What is it like to teach Sunday school to kids?” I paused the most pregnant of pauses—and looked into her wondering hope-filled eyes. For a moment I couldn't think of anything to say. I finally stumbled over something about it being fun, except when it's difficult. Snack was ending and it was time to get the crew back inside. Her excellent question got lost in the shuffle, but my heart was cracked open by its convicting Holy Spirit power. How could I not think of anything meaningful or loving to say? Me—the children's pastor who tries endlessly to get others to join this important ministry with children—so lost in my own plans for the morning that I forgot it's about God, it's about being there for these kids and listening to them.

Why doesn't he like Sunday school/church? Why are they so tired? What is so funny? What stories do they have to tell? How might the new toy I set out at the beginning of class be used to capture their attention during the lesson? Why didn't I just do class outside from the beginning? Why would a child want to know what it's like to be a Sunday school teacher? What did she need to hear to feel affirmed? What moment did I miss by being so caught up in my “ministry plan”?

If I had that moment again I'd tell her: “Teaching Sunday school is one of the most humbling, joyful, frustrating, entertaining, silly, and important things I am honored to do.” I'd let her know I love her being in class and how she brings me so much joy with her thoughtfulness. I love her questions and I appreciate her kindness. I see the Holy Spirit at work in her life and in the words that come from her mouth. I'd also share with her that I see God in the trash can, rolling around on the floor. I see God in the children desperate to get back to the building toy so they can be creative and successful. I see God in giggles and whispers, in the words of children and in their questions. I see God when I take time to pay attention.

Mauri Macy

pastor, worship ministries

So the summer has gone by pretty quickly (as usual), its closing often cued by notes to folks under the heading “August Already” (code for *time to consider committing to a new season of ministry*).

“Pretty quickly as usual” seems a little dismissive of the variety of good music/ministry we have experienced this summer. So to better remember some of it—we’ve appreciated the energy and creativity of the group coming to be known as Nolan, Rusty, and Jon (and others). Also you may remember Drew Miller speaking about God’s work in his life through the Taize community and the contemplative singing that morning accompanied by Stephanie and Jeremy on the harp and flute. And the Song Pickers Circle with John Johnson ... leading us for the “x + 1th” time, and the brass (BIG and small), and UMG (unnamed music ...), and the Quatet (that’s how it’s spelled). All of these and more, plus the many folk who have shared so very helpfully in the “See God” series, prompt a thankful remembering.

And it is August *already*. NFC Bells have already rehearsed (and are looking for a few good subs—a crucial component in the ministry of this unusual musical ensemble. If that sounds interesting, you might just be—perfect). And worshipEnsemble kicks off next week – you’ve read and it’s true, anyone can come ... anytime.

BIGbrass will be leading the first Sunday in October. Old friends/new faces ... all are welcome in any area of worship/music ministry. We’ll be so grateful when you step up.

Eric Muhr

pastor, youth ministries



In August, the boys group hiked in to both of the Latourell Falls to experience the grandeur, adventure, and overwhelming beauty of God’s creation. Thomas Millage and Joel Libby (pictured) climbed the rock wall behind the falls.

cont’d on page 4

Elizabeth Sherwood

*interim lead pastor
administrative pastor*

Seeing God on Sunday mornings: the summer preaching series. One of the highlights of this summer has been hearing from different people each Sunday. I am in awe of the spiritual depth of our community that became evident through hearing quality messages of encouragement and challenge each week. There is so much we can learn from one another, and the sense of our shared journey becomes enriched as we listen to how we are each recognizing God’s work in our lives.

Seeing God at the cemetery: the ministry of transitions. This summer our sexton, Derrol Hockett, retired after 16 years. It has been a challenging transition as Derrol not only knows the details of the work involved, he also knows so many stories of the friends and family connected to the cemetery. Derrol will be greatly missed. In preparation for Derrol’s retirement, Carl Anderson, Denise Lyman, and I have spent time at the cemetery working with families. One can see first hand the importance of helping people as they grieve and transition to refashioning their lives in light of the loss of a loved one. In the midst of change, I’m happy to announce that Mark Thompson has accepted the call to be the new sexton. Mark brings energy and compassion to the role and will serve the community well.

Eric Muhr, continued



High school youth float the Willamette River each summer—a

4-hour trip from Rogers Landing to Champoeg State Park. This year's float included water fights, swimming, a barbecue dinner, one popped raft, and hours of conversations. (Jesse Comfort and Maddie Lookabill pictured)



More than 300 youth and adults spent a week together

at Twin Rocks Surfside camp in August, where the theme *Salt and Light* prompted discussions—in classes, in cabin groups, in worship—as to the character of God, as to God's design of us, as to God's love for and calling to us. (Hayley Koskela, Naivit Velazquez, Brynn Akins pictured)



This was the fourth summer Newberg and North Valley youth have

joined together for a weekend of camping, cave exploring (spelunking), and whitewater rafting. The nature of the adventure requires some of us to face significant fears and to take real risks together as we learn about what it means to be community, to trust, to be worthy of trust. (Jamos Velarde, Tristan Kern pictured)

Kick-Off-the-Fall Picnic

September 8, 2013

@ noon

Burgers/hot dogs & chips will be provided!

Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

(\$ donations accepted)

Please bring your own tableware to help cut down on disposable products.

NOTE:

La Iglesia Evangelica Los Amigos will join us!

Interested in helping with the picnic?

There's a need for

- grillers
- tear-down workers and
- kitchen helpers

If you want to be part of the team, please contact **Elizabeth Sherwood**.

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READING ASSIGNMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 1

Luke 10:25-37

SUNDAY

No children's classes this week, except for nursery care. Our full program begins next Sunday, September 8.

Regular schedule for middle/high school and adult Sunday school. Ask an usher or greeter for specific class information.

9am | worship gathering

10-10:45am | Community Time | on the lawn

10:15-10:45am | library open

10:45am | worship gathering

Monday, September 2

JOY breakfast | 8am | J's Restaurant | for seniors 55 and older

NFC office closed for Labor Day

Wednesday, September 4

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Worship ensemble rehearsal | 7pm | Room 246 | all singers welcome

Thursday, September 5

Women's Bible Fellowship startup | 8:45am | social hall

Friday, September 6

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, September 7

Men's prayer meeting | 8am | Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room

Sunday, September 8

Kick-Off-the-Fall Picnic | noon | on the lawn | Burgers/hot dogs & chips provided; bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

All-church business meeting | 6pm | childcare provided

Plan Ahead

September 11 | WBF-pm startup | 7pm | Barclay C

September 14 | wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd | contact Larry Hampton, 503-538-6508

September 16 | 3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance) | 6:30pm | social hall

September 21 | Habitat for Humanity Build Day | contact Larry Hampton to volunteer 503-538-6508

September 23 | Letters of Hope | 6pm | social hall | Enjoy an intergenerational potluck dinner and an opportunity to write a letter of hope to the sponsored child or missionary partner you support.

NFC's Calendar on the Web!

Newberg Friends Church
a GROWING community
LISTENING to Christ
CHANGING in the Spirit
LIVING OUT love

PASTORAL TEAM

Michelle Akins

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HEAVEN'S GAIN

Bob Crandall died on August 22, 2013, at age 84. Bob has attended NFC since 1985. Family members at NFC include his wife, **Marcile**, and grandsons, **Jay** and **Drew Miller**. A service to celebrate Bob's life was held on Wednesday, August 28.

Library Volunteer Needed One Sunday a Month

The Newberg Friends Church library relies on volunteers, and we need one more. Please consider lending your talents to this ministry. The only requirements are very basic computer skills and a willingness to commit to a 45-minute shift of checking books in and out between first and second services one Sunday a month. Curious but on the fence? Stop by on a Sunday to see a library volunteer in action. Lisa Nauman, Carolyn Staples, or Jen Maurer will be happy to answer any questions. If you're interested, please contact Jen at library@newbergfriends.org or 971-226-3347. She can train you in about 2 hours.

You Are Welcome!



A new season of ministry for the **worship ensemble** begins soon. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join this joyful choral group—any time. Rehearsals begin September 4 and continue meeting each Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. You are welcome to join in rehearsal and in Sunday ministry—any time. Any time—you are welcome.

Look who's celebrating a birthday in — September!

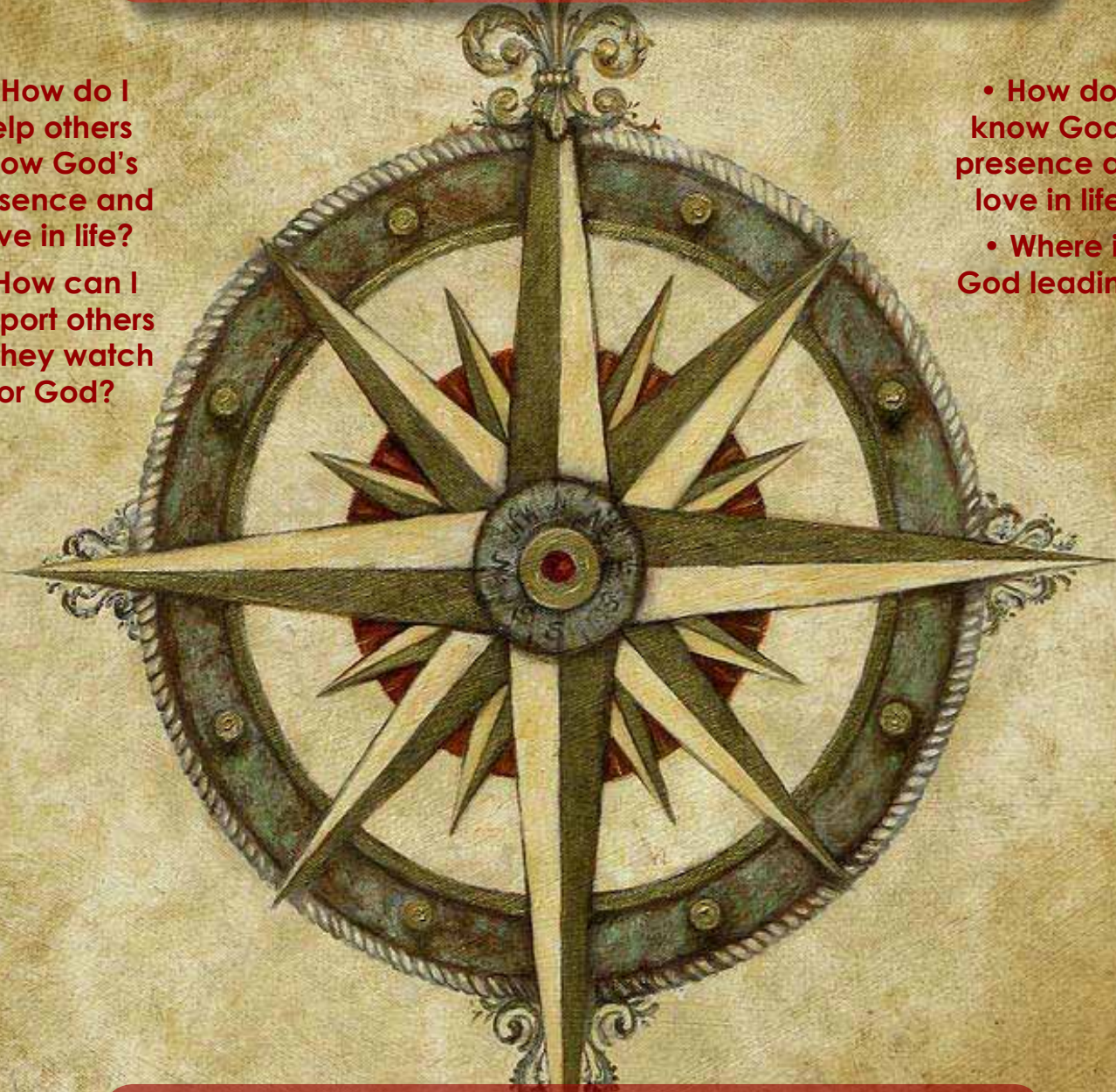
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- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kyle Headrick | Frank Engle | 23 Dorothy Thomas |
| 3 Alan Akins | Dallas Hampton | 25 Michelle Groves |
| Aidan Czarnecki | 14 Anthony Farr | Sicily Hampton |
| Bryan Lee | Kasey Fish | Mauri Macy |
| 4 Gene Hockett | Josephine Schwanz | Marc Shelton |
| Joan Littlefield | 15 Esther Mae Hinshaw | Elizabeth Todd |
| Lilly Anne Ross | 16 Erin Johnson | 26 Esther Muthiah |
| 5 Rick Comfort | 17 Wes Cook | 27 Tim Morland |
| 6 Ann Howe | 18 Claudine Staples | 28 Robert Barnett |
| Ben Shelton | 19 Flora Allen | DeLoris Field |
| Lyle Wheeler | 20 Samantha Budd | Alice Hines |
| 7 Betty Ankeny | Heather Denton | Sharon Hubbell |
| 9 Kemper Hampton | 21 Halee Baird | 29 Everett Clarkson |
| Naomi Wilson | 22 Dan Hampton | Dale McLeland |
| 10 Jackson Woods | Jane Heater | 30 Bonnie Arbogast |
| 12 Judah Schwanz | Kari Libby | Sylvie Denton |
| 13 Michelle Akins | Josh Nauman | Malachi Muthiah |
| Kai Baldwin | Leila Ralphs | |

Listening Life Groups "Sacred Compass" by Brent Bill

- How do I help others know God's presence and love in life?
- How can I support others as they watch for God?

- How do I know God's presence and love in life?
- Where is God leading?



Wednesday nights – 6:45 to 8:30
September 25 – December 4 (10 weeks)
Barclay A & B (the office building)
Open to all!
Contact Steve Fawver.