

# Your NFC

DECEMBER 20, 2013

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

## ALL IN A DAY'S...LIFE

by Mary Harwood

*It is a cold December evening in our small town of Oakland, Nebraska. Dressed in my Christmas finest, I am seated in a century-old wooden pew with my brothers. A Swedish flag has been pinned to my dress by Elsie, the (nearly) century-old curator of the Swedish Heritage Center, as was her custom. The sanctuary of First Covenant Church has been transformed—evergreen garlands and sparkling white lights grace the arches high above us, giving the room a majestic and magical feel. I wait eagerly for the lights to go dim. The music starts and we turn to watch her come up the aisle.*

*She is dressed in a white gown with a red sash around her waist, a wreath of evergreen branches on her head topped by a crown of flaming white candles. I hold my breath as she, along with her attendants, pass in front of me, their candles lighting the darkness. My mother's soprano voice is heard from the front, singing the name of this angelic vision, "Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia!"*

When asked about my cultural heritage, I often say that I am Swedish by immersion. Though only 1/32 Swede by blood, I grew up in a farming town of 1,200 people in rural Nebraska until I was ten years old. This town ardently celebrated its Swedish heritage, and my parents—especially my mother—eagerly joined in. Almost as soon as I could walk I was dancing with my father to Scandinavian folk tunes and sporting flower wreaths in my hair at the annual Swedish Festival.

Christmas is an especially rich time. The annual Santa Lucia Day celebration on December 13 was very special. A long-standing Swedish tradition, this day celebrates St. Lucia, a Christian martyr who was killed for her faith in 304AD. The red sash represents her death by the sword. The festival also lines up with the winter solstice; it is a festival of lights on the darkest day of the year. It is traditionally celebrated by the oldest daughter of a household rising early in the morning to dress in the white gown, red sash, and crown of lights. She then goes to wake each person, offering "Lussekatts," special sweet buns made for the day.

I had my chance to play the role of St. Lucia. Once, when I was about nine years old, my mother and I decided to uphold the tradition at our own home. I (carefully!) walked through the dark house with candles on my head and took morning treats to my brothers and my dad. A few years later I was able to play the part again



Currently featured  
on the art wall  
in the social hall:  
Creative  
Christmas  
Collages

Your  
NFC

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of information and  
community connectedness

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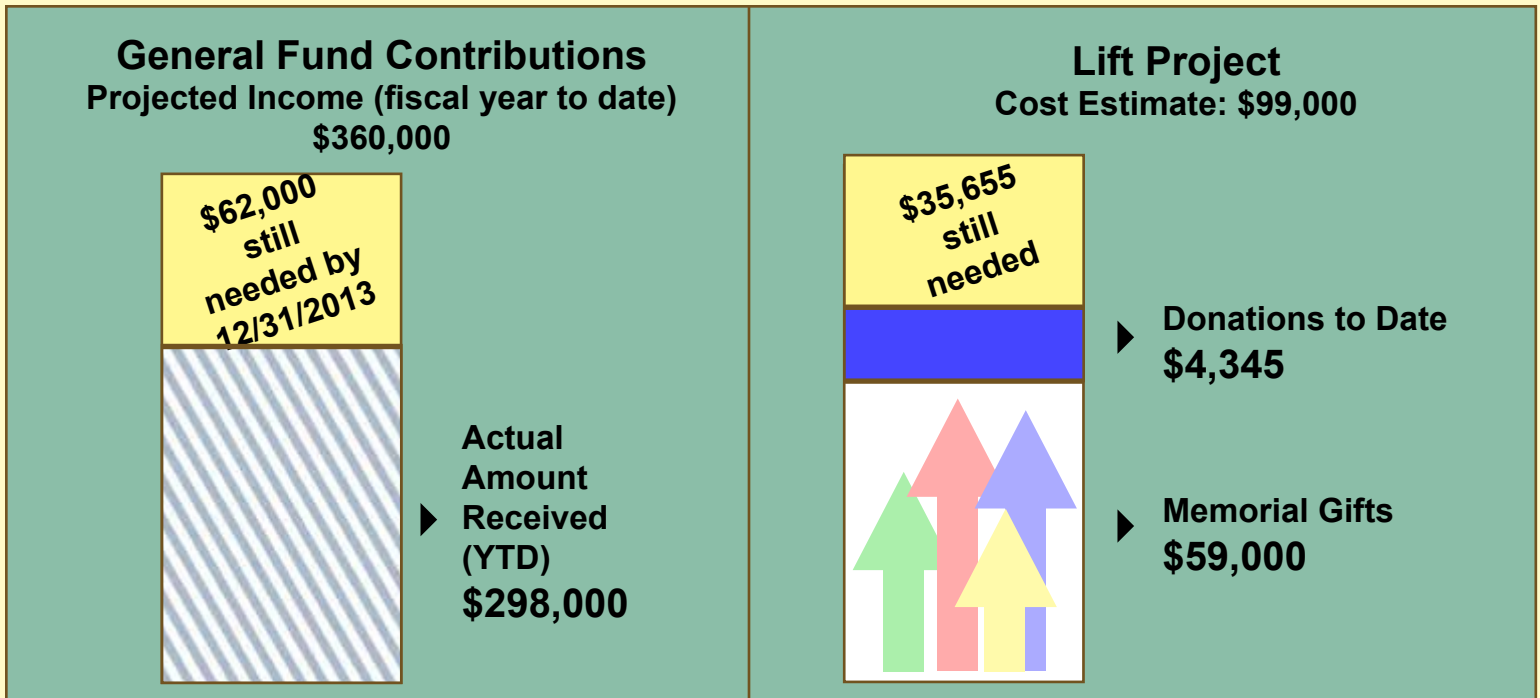
[www.newbergfriends.org](http://www.newbergfriends.org)

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in our church's "Christmas Around the World" production. It was an honor to be a part of this great tradition and share it with those around me.

Tradition and culture are important to me. Wherever I live, I seek to experience the local cultures and immerse myself in their richness. I once heard someone say, "Every family is its own culture." This is why I love what I see at Newberg Friends Church—families coming together to live their lives in community where we can share our cultures and create a new one together.

*Mary Harwood spent the last decade immersed in the culture of Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, where she worked as the chemistry lab manager after graduating in 2006. She married her college sweetheart, Corban, a math professor at George Fox, in June 2012, and they are expecting their first child in April.*



### A Note from the Bookkeeper

Please keep the following reminders in mind as you consider your year-end financial gifts to Newberg Friends Church:

- 1) In order to be eligible for deduction on your 2013 tax return, your contribution check must be dated and postmarked on or before December 31, 2013. In other words, checks received by mail in the church office in January can still be counted as a 2013 donation if the date on the check and the postmark on the envelope are in 2013. Please note: Checks delivered by hand after December 31 will be counted as 2014 contributions, regardless of the check date.
- 2) According to the IRS, any single contribution of \$250 or more must have a written acknowledgment from the organization. Your canceled check will no longer be adequate proof for these larger contributions. You will receive a detailed contribution receipt after the end of the year; be sure to save this receipt with your tax records.

So many of you have given faithfully to the ministries of NFC in 2013—thank you! Please feel free to contact me in the church office if you have questions about your donations.

—Denise Lyman



# Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

## READING ASSIGNMENT FOR DECEMBER 22

Luke 2:8-20

### SUNDAY

Sunday school for children and adults — for times and classroom information, find “Educational Opportunities” at each entrance, each “Info Center,” at the welcome center, or ask a greeter to help you.

**9am** | worship gathering

**10–10:45am** | Community Time | in social hall and library

**10–10:45am** | directory photos | Room 234

**10:15–10:45am** | library open

**10:45am** | worship gathering

**11:45am** | directory photos | Room 234 | *final opportunity*

**4:30pm** | Bible quizzing | high school and middle school | Youth House

### Monday, December 23

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

### Tuesday, December 24

Annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service | NFC sanctuary | 5pm/6:30pm/8pm

### Wednesday, December 25

NFC office closed for Christmas holiday

### Thursday, December 26

NFC office closed for Christmas holiday

### Friday, December 27

Children’s Christmas Break Event | 2-4pm | games, stories, a movie (with popcorn) for children age 3 through 5th grade

### Saturday, December 28

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

### Sunday, December 29

Read ahead: Luke 2

### Plan Ahead

January 6 | JOY breakfast | 8am | J’s Restaurant | for seniors 55 and older

January 6 | Pre-K Fun Night | 6-7pm | Friends Center gym | ages 3–5 yrs | \$2/child, \$4 family max, first-time visitors free

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

January 13 | 3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance) | 6:30pm | social hall

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

### PASTORAL TEAM

#### Michelle Akins

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#### Steve Fawver

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#### Mauri Macy

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#### Elizabeth Sherwood

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### SUPPORT STAFF

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#### Arnie Mitchell

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#### Dan Ritter

buildings manager  
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## NFC’s Calendar on the Web!



Want to have some fun?  
View the “Grateful” album of photos  
taken by Rachel Morell at our  
Harvest Community Time at Bauman.  
Click for the link.



**NFC Candlelight  
Christmas Eve  
Services**



**5 pm • 6:30 pm • 8 pm**



**Final  
2014  
Directory  
Photo Op  
December 22  
(10 & 11:45a)**

**(also January 5 for  
Friendsview residents)**

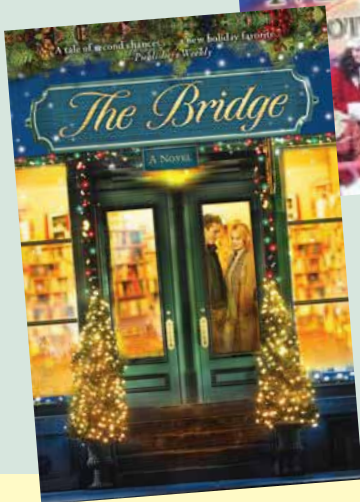
**Here's an easy way to update your directory/  
database information **ONLINE!** Just**

**click on this link**

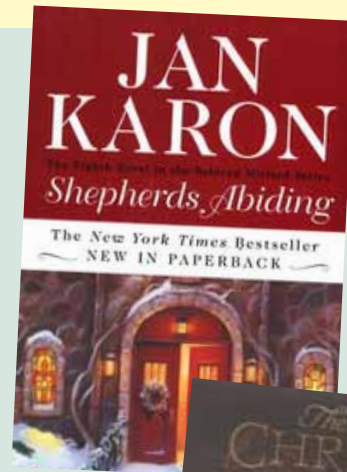
**and take care of this small but important task.**

**note: only one representative per  
household needs to do this.**

*Click on  
book image  
for more  
info.*



**Stop by the  
church library**  
to check out  
some Christmas  
picture books or  
movies for the kids.  
Looking for a way  
to slow down this  
Christmas season?  
Pick up a book for  
yourself too. Many  
titles are on display  
close to the  
check-out counter  
and near the  
movie cabinets.



**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

The memorial service for Ernest Thompson will be held tomorrow, December 21, at **3 p.m.**, not at 2 p.m., as announced in last week's *Your NFC*.

**The  
Sailing  
Lee  
Family**



The Lees built this dinghy in 5 days while docked in Cabo, MX. Read all about it **HERE.**