

Your NFC

JANUARY 17, 2014

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

ALL IN A DAY'S...LIFE

by Clyde Thomas

Life is a journey. My wife, Carol, and I are at the point where we are caring for aging parents with Alzheimer's and dementia. Dad is 96 and Mom is 94. I share this part of our journey in the hope it can help those who are in the midst of experiencing (or have experienced or will experience in the future) something similar!

The calls came from trusted church friends in Quincy, Washington: "Your parents are no longer capable of living on their own. You need to find different living arrangements." I was prepared; I had it all figured out. They could come live with us in Newberg. We had created a studio apartment in our garage and would simply absorb them into our family. We would rescue them! After all, we already managed 8 octogenarians in the form of 2 goats, 3 chickens, 2 cats, and 1 dog.

I had big plans. Helping Mom and Dad enjoy life as senior adults was the perfect excuse to indulge my own interest in fishing, family genealogy, local history, and exploring the natural wonders of Oregon and Washington. I wanted to help them enjoy life in ways their driven lifestyle never allowed. In their prime, everything had been about "doing." With this in mind, I lined up many potential opportunities to volunteer with Newberg organizations. I had covered the bases.

But it mostly never happened. Where they were mentally and physically didn't line up with what they could do and would enjoy. Dad didn't want to waste his time with unimportant stuff like fishing and sightseeing, and the bathrooms always seemed too far away. He wanted to do physical projects for the kingdom, but the thinking neurons in his brain were disconnected from his capacity to act through hands and feet. He simply couldn't perform the work. Dad's (and eventually Mom's) mental recall of family history became increasingly suspect as memory failed. Fabricated stories, usually based on current events read that day in the news, began to take the place of the true stories. With great sadness, I watched the memories of my entire childhood and their last 20 years of overseas volunteer service disappear. They forgot the names of my siblings. And as they lost their ability to care for themselves, Carol and I coped by dropping out of most of our social and organizational commitments. Caring for Mom and Dad dominated our life. We put our dreams on hold. We began to feel trapped.

One thing that didn't disappear was Dad's incessant need "to do." The question



Currently featured
on the art wall
in the social hall:
Grateful photos
by Rachel Morell
(click image above to see
the "Gratitude" video.)

Your
NFC

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“What should I do?” was asked frequently and it irritated me greatly. Dad had always been a workaholic. He found much of his value in the physical projects he did for the kingdom—and there were many. I began “coaching” him (I fear somewhat condescendingly) to learn “to be” rather than “to do.” To learn *to be* content in all situations and with gratitude in his heart, to learn to bless other people and make life easy for them!

One day it hit me like a ton of bricks—all this good teaching *at* Dad boomeranged. I realized I had the same faults. I too found my self-worth greatly driven by performance, by what I could accomplish and the number of situations I could “save.” I had even “forced” Carol, using godly counsel, into a pattern of “good” works. She struggled to cope with my pressure as she cared for my parents day in and day out. I found I wasn’t nearly as altruistic as I thought I was. My self-righteous attitude was killing my wife. Things had to change.

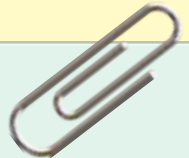
About that time my mom fell, and the doctors strongly advised us to place both in full-time care. They currently reside in the Chehalem Care and Rehabilitation Center, within walking distance of my office. Visits are genial—even fun. Dad still plans on going back to Guatemala or Africa. Carol once again breathes free. Gradually the bit-

terness I didn’t realize I had is subsiding. We are working to establish a new normal.

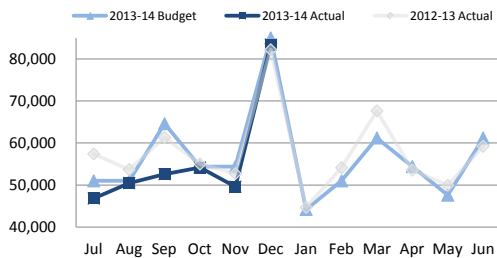
Carol and I have really appreciated the cloud of witnesses at NFC who have taken the time to listen, to offer the gifts of presence, prayer, and encouragement to us through this journey. Thanks, Ralph, for your tender and courageous letters to Wanda as you too, deal with this mean, humiliating, and debilitating disease. Thanks Gregg, for the sermon on finding our value in Christ alone.

It wasn’t *all* tough. We’ve experienced good times as well. Dad’s hasn’t lost his sensitivity to the Spirit. Carol tells the following story: “Dad could still be used by Christ. Sometimes he would speak out of the blue directly into the condition or issue, even when he was unaware there was an issue. At one point he couldn’t go with Clyde and Mom because his legs weren’t strong enough. He was upset. I went out to feed animals, and when I came back in his face was radiant. He said, ‘I stayed home because Christ was coming to visit me.’ I said, ‘and he did, didn’t he?’ He smiled big and nodded. He may not remember how to get the food to his mouth, but he can recite memorized scripture and ‘sing’ hymns from memory. He carries them in his heart.”

NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH FINANCIAL RECAP + DECEMBER 2013



YTD General Fund Giving



Difference (in thousands) (4) (1) (12) (0) (5) (2)
(11) (3) (9) (1) (3) 1

Actual vs. Budget
Current vs Prior Yr

YTD Donor Restricted Funds

	Beginning	Income	Expense	Balance
Global Outreach	1,575	25,290	17,655	9,210
Outside Ministries	4,968	5,485	5,485	4,968
Compassionate Care	4,819	4,400	3,365	5,854
NFC Ministries	5,437	3,105	1,844	6,698
Scholarships	5,574	900	2,132	4,342
Facilities	6,195	13,120	33,929	(14,614)
Other Funds	34,570	2,731	16,355	20,946
Totals	63,138	55,031	80,765	37,404

General Fund Year-to-Date

	Actual	Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)
Income	356,729	378,472	(21,743)
Expense	(370,888)	(377,720)	6,832
Net	(14,159)	752	(14,912)

Cash & Investments



A complete financial report can be found on the bulletin board in the library.

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READING ASSIGNMENT FOR JANUARY 19

Acts 18

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 the social hall and library

10:15-10:45am | library open

10:45am | worship gathering

3pm | Women's retreat steering team meeting | Barclay C

4:30pm | Bible Quizzing practice | Youth House

Monday, January 20

NFC office closed for MLK Day

K-2 Fun Night | 6pm | FC-gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade | \$2 per child, \$4 family max, first-time visitors free

Wednesday, January 22

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

High school volleyball open gym | 4:15p | FC gym

Middle school youth group | 6:30pm

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

Thursday, January 23

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

Friday, January 24

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, January 25

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

Sunday, January 26

Read ahead | John 17:20-26

5 o'clock gathering | sanctuary

Plan Ahead

January 27 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade. \$2 per child, \$4 family max; first-time visitors free

January 27 | Margaret Fell WMF | 7pm | Spaulding Oaks Community Center | featuring Faviloa Giron, Aguascaliente, Mexico

February 3 | JOY breakfast | 8am | J's Restaurant | for seniors 55 and older

February 3 | VBS planning/prep meeting | Barclay C | 7:30pm | for all interested in volunteering for VBS, June 23-27, 2014

February 8 | wood ministry work session | 9-11:30am | Friends Cemetery on Everest Rd.

February 10 | 3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance) | 6:30pm | social hall

February 14 | Children's Valentine's Day Party | 5-8pm | social hall | Fundraiser for NFC Rwanda 2014 | All childcare donations will go to the team while parents enjoy an evening out! Children will be treated with a simple dinner, playtime with friends, crafts, and movies.

March 7-9 | NFC women's retreat | Twin Rocks Friends Camp

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

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NFC's Calendar on the Web!



Scholarship Funding Needed

Please consider making a donation to the NFC women's retreat scholarship fund, which allows women in our community who live on tight budgets to benefit from attending this year's retreat.

Simply write (or order) a check to NFC, designated to "women's retreat scholarship." Then smile and enjoy knowing that your anonymous gift helped someone say yes to an event she would normally have to miss.

NFC Women's Retreat

Twin Rocks Friends Camp

March 7-9, 2014

Cost: \$120

Find registration forms at the Welcome Center, info towers, and in the NFC office. Scholarship applications available. Contact Michelle Akins for more details.
michelle@newbergfriends.org

Retreat is an opportunity for women of all ages to enjoy the Oregon Coast. You'll delight in good food, lots of laughter, deepening friendships, and stories of faith. This weekend is your chance to take a nap, be crafty, play a game, read, journal, take a hike, go out for coffee, or stroll along the beach with a buddy. Make it whatever you want, just don't miss it!



LAST CALL!

The 2014 directory will be printed next week. If you haven't given the NFC office your updated contact information, please take a minute right now—click **HERE** to fill out the online form. It's easy and quick!
Thank you.