

Your NFC

JANUARY 3, 2014

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

FROM ME TO YOU

by Michelle Akins
children and family ministries

I kept hoping to have some profound spiritual experience over Christmas to share with you. So I put off writing this article. Instead I think God wanted to teach me (again) to simply enjoy—or at least endure with some sense of peace—the journey. Oh, I know it sounds cliché. It is. Cliché or not, following Jesus is a process. Perhaps you can relate. Like me, you'd rather have a grand moment of enlightenment, a special day or meaningful event to mark on the calendar to remember as a "life-changing" moment. A time you can definitively say, "I get it." But life-changing moments happen *every day*. We wake up, interact with the world, communicate with God, and our life changes. Some days we speak hope, live loved, and share a bit of God's grace. Other days we snarl at those around us, stay locked in discontent, or lack forgiveness. Whatever happens, our experience of life here on earth is altered bit-by-bit by our daily choices and responses. The mysterious/scary/exciting part is that God has given us the power to modify not only our own experience of life but also the lives of those with whom we interact. In essence, my words, actions, and decisions have positive or negative consequences for others. It's inevitable that life is relational (messy). God created it that way. I'm thankful that God also does good redeeming work and that my personal interactions aren't the "end of the story."

I'm wondering if a focus on gentleness might just be the companion you and I need for this complicated journey. Something from a recent study on the book of James at Women's Bible Fellowship has been gnawing at me for months. Wisdom from heaven is described in James 3:17 as this: "... first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." Beth Moore says, "True wisdom has a gentleness about it, doesn't it? Harsh people are never wise people. They may be smart. They may even be right. But they are not what the Bible calls wise." This quote has spoken deep, convicting truth to my soul. It's inspired me to soak in gentleness for 2014. Instead of barking, "I can't believe I (or you) just did/said/thought that!" I am asking God to help us speak and act with wisdom as defined by James 3:17. The gentlest response might simply be to listen well.

Friends and companions on the journey, thank you for the wisdom you share



Currently featured
on the art wall
in the social hall:

Grateful photos
by Rachel Morell



Your
NFC

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for the purpose
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with me and with one another every day. Your written and spoken words and your prayers enrich life in immeasurable ways. It is an honor to worship with you at NFC, to serve alongside you, to struggle together, to laugh together. I recently heard a sermon that helped me articulate what I've felt for about a decade. The pastor named some of the ways we live in relation to God and people. Life lived: under, over, from, or for. Living life "for" God and people is often marked with a sense of disappointment; you always wish you could do more, yet you're often drained by feeling you are doing too much. There is little time in this sort of living to enjoy the journey. It's not a gentle way to live. Living life "for" God and people isn't completely terrible (I hope not, because it's the way I tend to relate!) Life in "for" mode is task oriented and passionate; it loves to "activate." But it often misses something important: living *with* God and people. As we relate and respond in 2014, I pray we will seek gentle, everyday, life-changing, journeying-together moments; speaking and acting with wisdom from heaven.

Peace Month 2014



Begin reading the
NWYM Peace Reader
today!

[Peace Daily Reader
Link](#)

Celebrating a birthday in — January 2014!

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Harlan Wooldridge | 9 Louisa Buerkle | 18 Arleta Fisher |
| 2 Nicole Fawver | 10 Twila Tschan | Lois Smith |
| Norma Yoder | 11 Ginny Birky | Heidi Tschan |
| 3 Aaron Dunlop | Kyle Fish | 19 Paul Fodge |
| Jacob Graham | 14 Beth Nistler | 20 Esme Clair |
| Bev Payton | 15 Jolee Akins | Bethany Lee |
| 4 Hudson Thomas | Debbie Hawblitzel | 21 Esther Johnson |
| 5 Noah Scott | Kelly Shelton | 23 Brian Craven |
| 6 Tim Hyatt | Eliana Swan | John Johnson |
| Merrill Johnson | 16 Brandon Buerkle | 24 Marcille Comfort |
| Zach Maurer | Gary Fawver | Aj Schwanz |
| Janette Stoltzfus | Joshua Passmore | Elizabeth Sherwood |
| Brad Wood | Gib Rickey | 26 Tim Engle |
| 7 Nancy Brown | 17 Alda Clarkson | Christian Hampton |
| Floyd Schrock | Susan Doak | 30 Gary Brown |
| 8 LaJuan Hampton | Ron Stansell | Sam Farmer |
| Jonahan Morell | | Manfred Tschan |
| Sandy Prewitt | | 31 Lesta Hockett |

HEAVEN'S GAIN



Ed Liebman died on December 21, 2013, at age 86. He had been a member of NFC since 2007. Family members at NFC include his wife, **Liz**. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, January 11, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.



Richard Powell died on December 24, 2013, at age 81. He had been a member at NFC for 20 years. Family members at NFC include his wife, **Mildred**. A memorial service is planned for tomorrow, January 4, 2014, at 1 p.m.

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READING ASSIGNMENT FOR JANUARY 5

Acts 11:19-30

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

10:15-10:45am | library open

10:45am | worship gathering

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

Monday, January 6

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

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

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

Tuesday, January 7

High school volleyball open gym | 4:30p | FC gym

Wednesday, January 8

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Middle school youth group | 6:30pm

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

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

Thursday, January 9

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

Friday, January 10

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, January 11

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

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

Ed Liebman memorial service | 10:30am | NFC sanctuary

Sunday, January 12

Read ahead | John 15:9-17

5 o'clock gathering | simple contemplative worship known as 'Taize'

Plan Ahead

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

January 19 | women's retreat steering team meeting | 3pm | Barclay C

January 20 | 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 are free

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

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

NFC's Calendar on the Web!

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

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